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**Contemporary and Competing Vistas:
Public Perceptions of Wearmouth and Jarrow**

Volume 1.

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This thesis is dedicated to participants and individuals who have enhanced my memories, experiences and understanding of Wearmouth and Jarrow.

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Abstract

The Contemporary and Competing Vistas project is a facet of the English Heritage 'One Monastery in Two Places,' (OMTP) historical landscape study which aimed to enhance existing archaeological and historical records of Wearmouth and Jarrow's iconic monastic Anglo-Saxon remains at St Peter's and St Paul's. The OMTP project took place in advance of the twin monasteries nomination for joint UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2011. This facet of the wider OMTP project aimed to gain insights into the diversity of ways in which people memorialize, understand, experience and use the post-industrial landscapes of the two churches. In addition, this study aimed to identify alternate perceptions of landscape, local heritage and factors which influence how people experience and view Jarrow and Wearmouth. Between May and November 2010 the public, local stakeholders and the Wearmouth-Jarrow Partnership for World Heritage Status were invited to take part in interviews, focus group sessions, and drawing and photographic elicitation exercises. The use of a multi-faceted approach facilitated the collection of a range of qualitative, spatial and visual data. This data has provided insights into how townscapes are perceived in terms of personal and communal memories, meanings, experiences, beliefs and emotions. Participants discussed their perceptions of the past, present and future with frequent reference to recent regeneration schemes, developments and the demolition of familiar features. The desire to preserve certain aspects of the landscape because of historical associations, personal and communal symbolism was a recurrent theme. In addition the landscape was identified as a place for local, national and international encounters. This thesis argues that the fusions between tangible and intangible elements have resulted in competing, pluralistic perceptions of the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow. It is recommended that further research is conducted in order to create heritage frameworks which encourage the diversity of landscape perceptions to be considered in future Landscape Characterization projects and the management of the monastic sites at Wearmouth-Jarrow and their hinterlands.

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Abbreviations:

AONB	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EH	English Heritage
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
JRW10 (1)	Participant data collected in Jarrow in 2010. The last number changes in accession. Code used to connect images with data available in Appendices 4-6.
OMTP	One Monastery in Two Places (project).
MWM10 (1)	Participant data collected in Wearmouth in 2010. The last number changes in accession to link connecting data. Code used to connect images with data available in Appendices 4-6.
WHB	World Heritage Bid
WHS	World Heritage Status
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1. Research in Focus

The primary aim of this thesis is to produce an enriched snap-shot into the diversity of ways in which the landscapes of Jarrow and Wearmouth are perceived, used, received and experienced by the public, local stakeholders and members of the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership. The Contemporary and Competing Vistas project will contribute to the English Heritage ‘One Monastery in Two Places’ archaeological and historical landscape survey (OMTP) by providing insights into contemporary and competing perceptions of Wearmouth and Jarrow at the time of the UNESCO bid for World Heritage Status for Wearmouth-Jarrow (i.c. discussed further in Section 1.2, p. 12). Wearmouth and Jarrow are home to the former monasteries of St Peter and St Paul, described by Bede as ‘One Monastery, in two places’ (Web 1998: 31). A documented connection between these two monastic sites has been maintained for over a century. The connection is reflected by the contemporary Wearmouth-Jarrow Partnership and their endeavours to obtain joint World Heritage Status for both sites. Public consultation instigated by the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership identified that most participants of the survey supported the bid for World Heritage Status, and believe that both sites are significant aspects of their local heritage (Wood Homes Group 2009: 1). However, the full extent of ways in which members of the public perceive, utilize and experience both sites and their hinterlands was not the focus of the public consultation, and has not, as of yet, been fully investigated. In addition, the perspectives of members of the public who did not respond to the public consultation project have yet to be captured, for example, children and teenagers. Data collected in this project will be used to inform and assist the 2011 bid for World Heritage

Status for Wearmouth-Jarrow. The results of this project will be displayed at the OMTP public exhibition, scheduled for the forthcoming ICOMOS visit in 2011.

1.2. Background of research:

This thesis is a facet of the 'One Monastery in Two Places' project which is co-ordinated by Dr. Sam Turner and Dr. Sarah Semple from the Universities of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and Durham. This two-year project is funded by English Heritage, and was inspired by the recent publication of the excavations at Wearmouth and Jarrow conducted by Rosemary Cramp (OMTP 2010: Online). The project also coincides with the forthcoming World Heritage bid led by the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership. The partnership identified that a priority of the OMTP project should be to define the geographical boundaries of the monastic landscapes which have not, as of yet, been ascertained (Turner *et al* 2008: 5 - 6). If the WHS bid is successful, the monastic remains of the monasteries of St Paul and St Peter will be inscribed upon the World Heritage monuments list (Wearmouth-Jarrow 2009a: 3). Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list will give both sites international recognition as a combined place of 'outstanding universal value' (English Heritage 2008: 2). In addition, both sites and their buffer zones will have greater protection from future development (*Ibid.* 7).

The central aim of the OMTP project is to enhance existing archaeological and historical records of the monastic remains at Jarrow and Wearmouth through multi-faceted and systematic landscape studies (Turner *et al* 2008). As an aspect of the OMTP project, this thesis aims to create a survey of contemporary and competing public experiences, uses, reception and understandings of the medieval monastic remains and hinterlands. The Contemporary and Competing Vistas study will provide a contrast to the scientific, quantifiable and geographical approaches adopted in the OMTP project. This thesis is the product of a twelve-month English Heritage funded research masters at Durham University in archaeology and geography.

1.3. Definitions of key terms

A precise definition of key terms is vital to ensure clarity and to prevent the use of assumed meaning (Smith *et al* 2009a: 15). Assumed meanings can lead to ambiguous and competing definitions of the same term (*Ibid*: 15 & 23 - 24). In order to ensure cohesion throughout this project, this section of the thesis will introduce and define terms used in this study.

1.3.1. *Landscapes* are frequently defined by contemporary academics as an adaptive cognitive construct formed by human perceptions of the land rather than as a fixed physical area with distinct spatial boundaries (c.f. Ashmore *et al* 1999: 1, Crumley 1999, Darvill 1999: 104, Limb *et al* 2001: 6 and Whelan 2005: 6). In contrast Schein (1997: 660) described cultural landscapes as a tangible and visual reflection of society and identity. The term landscape in this thesis is defined as a construct shaped by fusions between tangible physical features and associated intangible cognitions.

1.3.2. Defining who the *public*, *stakeholders* and members of the *Wearmouth-Jarrow steering group* are is problematic as people can belong to more than one of these groups at same time (c.f. Smith *et al* 2009a: 18). For the purpose of this project, the term *public* refers to residents, visitors and employees who live, visit or work within the geographical parameters of this study. The term *stakeholders* will be used in reference to individuals with an economic connection to the land within zones 2 and 3; for example, spokespersons of local businesses. The members of the *Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership* are defined as referred to in associated literature (c.f. Wearmouth-Jarrow 2009 a and b).

1.3.3. The term *perception* can be summarized as the ways in which people understand and interpret stimuli perceived through the senses (Oxford Dictionary 2009).

1.3.4. The word *vista* is used both as a reference to a particular physical view and as an individual's or group's cognitive outlook. Porteous (1990) explored how cognitive vistas are created through the five human senses; sight, smell, touch, taste, and hearing. Porteous argued that sight is the most dominant of these senses, but the remaining four senses are also important, especially for memory recall (*Ibid*: 4 - 7). Within this project, both visual and cognitive vistas will be considered in order to gain an insight into public perceptions of the Jarrow and Wearmouth landscapes.

1.4. The geographical parameters of this project

The parishes of Jarrow and Wearmouth are situated between the River Tyne and River Wear in the North East of England (i.c. Figure 1.1, p.16). The church of St Paul (NZ3365SE) in Jarrow is located 9.71km north west from the church of St Peter (NZ4057NW) in Wearmouth (EDINA: 2009 Online). To ensure cohesion with the OMTP project, geographical zones as defined by Turner *et al* (2008) will be utilized in this study (i.c. Figure 1.2, p.16). This will facilitate subsequent comparisons between academic and participant perceptions of Jarrow and Wearmouth.

The OMTP zones are as follows:

- Zone 1 consists of the wider regional context of St Paul's and St Peter's in Tyne and Wear. This area includes Jarrow, Wearmouth, Boldon and Whitburn parishes (Turner *et al* 2008: 7). Due to the projects time constraints, Zone 1 will be excluded from this study of contemporary perceptions. However, this zone may be referred to for contextual data.
- Zone 2 consists of the immediate hinterlands with a maximum 10km² range around both monastic sites and includes the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnerships proposed buffer

zones (Turner *et al* 2008: 7, Turner 2010). Zone 2 provides the maximum parameter for the study of perceptions in this project.

- Zone 3 consists of each monastic site and their immediate surroundings (Turner *et al* 2008: 7). This zone is the focus of investigative methods employed by the OMTP project (*Ibid*). In contrast, this study will place no specific focus upon Zone 3. Participants will be able to identify landscapes which are important to them within both Zones 2 and 3, without intentional influence.

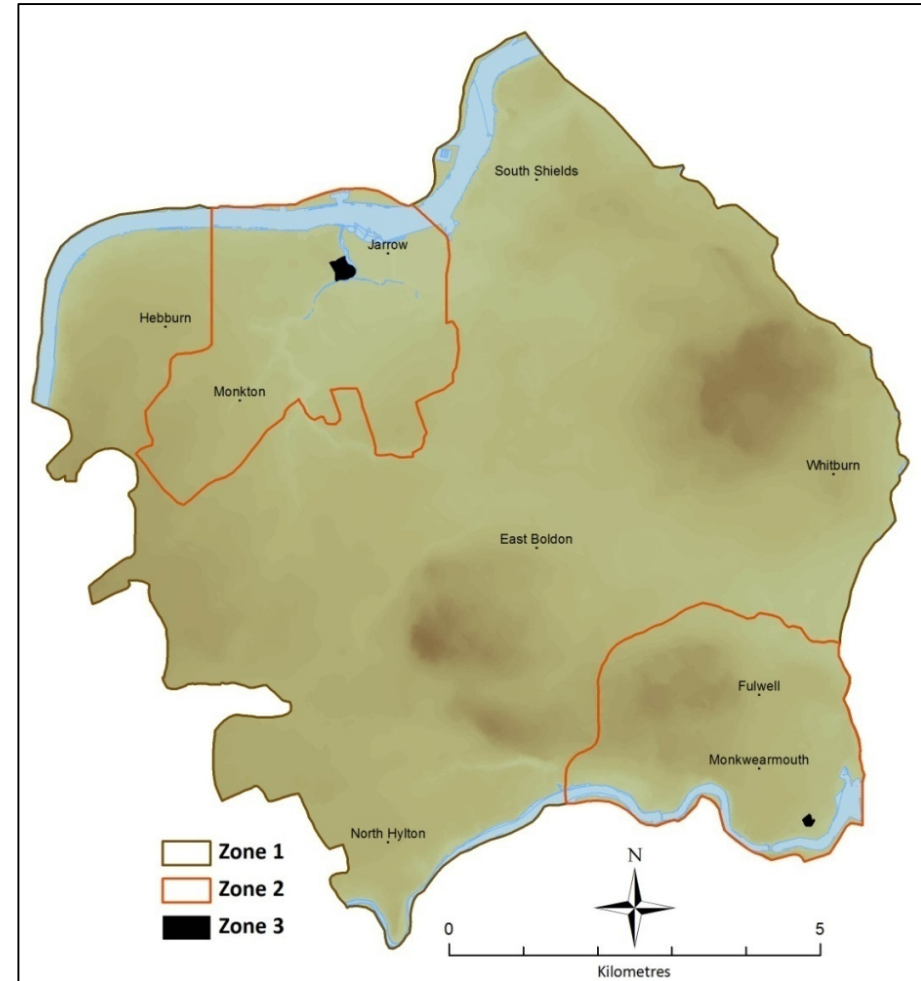


Figure 1.1. (Left): *The location of Zone 1, 2 and 3 in the North East of England (Authors).*

Figure 1.2. (Right): *The geographical parameters of Zones 1,2 and 3 (Turner 2009).*

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1.5. Literature Review

In this literature review, theoretical frameworks and methods of investigation which can be applied to this study are analyzed. Past and present investigations into the landscapes of Jarrow and Wearmouth are also identified in order to provide foundations upon which new avenues of understanding can be constructed. Books, journal articles and websites have been sourced from online databases and related bibliographies. The literature review is divided into three sections; theoretical frameworks, research into the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow, and methodological approaches.

1.5.1. Theoretical Frameworks

Perception of landscape is a theme studied in several academic disciplines, such as human geography, archaeology and anthropology. It is imperative that the theoretical approaches adopted by these disciplines are explored because they have had a substantial impact upon contemporary studies of landscapes. For example, before the 1970s, landscapes were studied as quantifiable areas which could contain spatial arrangements of features, such as settlements and religious structures (c.f. Clarke 1979: 35, Limb *et al* 2001: 3, Park 1994: 1 and Whelan 2005: 6). This framework was also adopted in traditional archaeological investigations which focused upon specific sites and neglected immediate and regional hinterlands (Rössignol *et al* 1992: vii). Subsequent quantitative approaches used to investigate wider landscapes have been critiqued by academics such as Barrett (1994: 1) for their generalized and de-humanized conclusions (c.f. Clarke 1979: 74 and Johnson 2007: 127). To resolve these issues, contemporary theoretical frameworks consider landscapes to be dynamic social constructs as opposed to fixed geographical locations (c.f. Tilley 2004 and Rössignol *et al* 1992: vii). In order to ascertain a theoretical approach suited to this project, the following sections consider multi-disciplinary approaches used in the study of landscapes.

Phenomenological approaches, often used by human geographers and archaeologists, consider the ways which people perceive the world through bodily senses and interactions (c.f. Darvill 1999, Pocock 1996, Tilley 2004: 10 and Tuan 1990). Tilley (2004 10 & 16) argued that perceptions of the world are formed through multisensory relationships between the 'visible' and the 'invisible' or as Wylie (2009: 275) posited, the interaction between 'presence' and 'absence'. Landscapes are engaged with through smells, sounds, textures and tastes, whilst social meanings, memories and emotions associated to a place also influence the ways that landscapes are perceived (Darvill 1999: 107, Tuan 1990 and Wylie 2009: 279). From an archaeological perspective, the phenomenological approach is limited because it is based upon the assumption that past cognitions can be discerned from archaeological remains and these interpretations cannot be validated (Barrett *et al* 2009: 284, Darvill 1999: 107, Fleming 2005 and Johnson 2007: 72). Without sufficient validation, the researcher's own background and experiences can unintentionally influence interpretations of both past and present perceptions (c.f. Cooney 1999: 46 and Ucko *et al* 1999: 3). This is because people interpret the world through their own cultural norms and personal experiences (c.f. Barrett 1994: 12, Darvill 1999: 107, Pocock 1996 385 - 386 and Wylie 2009). Nevertheless, the phenomenological approach is a useful framework for the study of contemporary perceptions, as it considers both external bodily stimuli and internal perceptual processes. Interpretations of contemporary perceptions can also be validated through direct interaction with the participants whose perceptions are being studied, rather than assumed from archaeological remains.

To validate interpretations of past perceptions, ethnographic case studies are frequently employed as analogies (c.f. Altenburg 2003, Chang 1992 and Fowler 2004). For example, Altenburg (2003) explored medieval experiences and expressions of regional and local identities through systematic land study in Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor in England, and Romele Ridge in Sweden. This study considered residual features as indications of how past people utilized the

landscape. Interpretations were justified through selected ethnographic analogies. Chang (1992: 65) directly studied contemporary societies in Grevena, Greece to ascertain how pastoral peoples engage and use the land. This research was employed as an analogy to aid understanding of past pastoral farmers engagement with the land (Chang 1992: 79 - 81). Similar to Chang's (1992) study, the Contemporary and Competing Vistas project will also engage with present-day people to gain insights into the diversity of ways that people use, engage and understand landscapes in the 21st Century. This study has potential to be used as an analogy for future research into past and present perceptions of landscapes.

Within the last century, cultural heritage frameworks have increasingly considered landscapes as important in both physical form and in the social meanings bestowed upon them. For example, the *North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Petts and Gerrard 2006: 209 - 210), the *Historical Land Characterization* (HLC) projects (c.f. Clarke *et al* 2004: 1, Fairclough 2005 and 2008, Turner 2006 and Turner *et al* 2009) and UNESCO included cultural landscapes within their research framework from 1992 (c.f. Aikawa-Faure 2009, Blake 2006 and UNESCO 2003). Contemporary focus consigned to the research and preservation of both physical and cognitive aspects of cultural landscapes is indicative of the perceived importance of this topic (Clarke *et al* 2004: 2 and Johnson 2007: 124). In the past, landscapes and heritage were considered to be two distinct entities (Garden 2009: 270 - 271). This is demonstrated by the separate titles bestowed upon landscapes and heritage sites, for example, *Areas of Outstanding National Beauty* (AONB) and *Scheduled Monuments* (c.f. Breeze 2006: 57, Johnson 2008: 46, Lawson 2004: 23 and NAAONB 2006: Online). These titles provide official recognition of the cultural importance these landscapes and monuments once had, and still have, to the contemporary people who safeguard, maintain and use them (c.f. Deacon *et al* 2004: 7 and Holdaway 2001: V). Today, it is common for monuments to be considered within their landscape context, for instance, the *Heart of Neolithic Orkney* and the *OMTP* landscape studies

(Tyldesley *et al* 2001 and Turner *et al* 2009). The fact that the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership was formed to endeavour for joint World Heritage Status for the monastic remains and their hinterlands is indicative of the contemporary cultural importance of these two sites within their landscape contexts (c.f. Wearmouth-Jarrow 2009 a and b).

Public perceptions of heritage have increasingly been studied and even incorporated into decisions made about heritage management and development proposals (c.f. James *et al* 2007, Landorf 2000 and Thomas *et al* 1996). Since 1972, UNESCO has endeavoured to ‘encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world’ (UNESCO 2008a: 3). This involves the identification of heritage sites which are places of ‘outstanding universal value’ (English Heritage 2008: 5). UNESCO defines ‘universal value’ as a ‘[site(s)] which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and of importance for present and future generations of all humanity’ (*Ibid*: 3). This definition raises the questions as to how the value of a site can be discerned, and whose perspectives of importance are adhered to. This issue is addressed within English Heritage Guidance Notes for proposed management plans for World Heritage Status (English Heritage 2008: 7). English Heritage recommended that the perspectives of key stakeholders and members of the community, who own, occupy or manage the land or site in question are considered in order to make informed decisions about changes to management regimes (*Ibid*). It is widely recognised that perceptions about heritage and landscape can have great variability. Studies such as Catanzoglou (2000), Daehnke (2007) and DuBois (2000) demonstrated the importance of studying public perceptions of landscapes in order to provide balance to dominant academic, political and social accounts of specific monuments and landscapes (c.f. Jones 2005: 47 - 49 and Smith *et al* 2009a: 139).

Despite recognition of the importance of contemporary perspectives, Garden (2009: 272) argued that heritage studies continue to consider physical landscapes or cognitive landscapes and rarely both simultaneously. For example, Bennett (2009: 189 - 191) used an interpretative

approach to understand how a former mining community used nostalgia to cope with a changing landscape. This involved direct engagement with participants to collect detailed qualitative data, but did not involve any evaluation of the physical landscape (*Ibid*). On the other hand, Ling (2007) conducted a land-use assessment of a post-industrial landscape. This involved the characterization of the land-use based upon pre-defined criteria with no direct participant involvement (*Ibid*: 288 – 291 c.f. Gallent *et al* 2007: 4 - 6). Garden proposes that landscapes and heritage sites should be studied as a *heritagescape* (2009: 271). The heritagescape framework is a coherent measure which aims to systematically define boundaries, evaluate visual attributes and the cohesion of heritage sites (*Ibid*: 276 c.f. Garden 2006: 399). Garden's study illustrates the importance of establishing a systematic framework in investigations of space. To prevent the disconnection of the physical and cognitive landscape, this project will consider references participants make to tangible and intangible landscapes of Wearmouth-Jarrow. In addition, it is intended that the Contemporary and Competing Vistas project will dove-tail into the OMTP physical and historic landscape study in order achieve a complete picture into the hinterlands of the monastic sites.

1.5.2. Research conducted into the heritage and landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow.

A wide range of primary and secondary sources associated to the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow are available. These include publications, reports, articles, archived images and a range of cartographical sources available at Local Study centres, Libraries and County Archives. In addition, a history group in Jarrow have created their own photographic archive which provides visual evidence of former land-use, events and landscape aesthetics. This section of the literature review evaluates the range of available documentary and photographic sources which can be used to gain insights into contemporary perceptions of Wearmouth and Jarrow.

Rosemary Cramp's published excavations at Wearmouth and Jarrow provide innovative insights into the context in which Bede wrote his ecclesiastical writings and explores the sites' phases of construction, the use of buildings, material culture and associated cemeteries (Cramp 1969 and 2005 a and b). As Barrett (1994: 12) indicated, archaeologists who have systematically excavated at a site will perceive that location from a different perspective to general visitors. Undoubtedly, Rosemary Cramp's experiences of excavating at Jarrow and Wearmouth will differ from contemporary commercial excavations conducted prior to development, for example watching-briefs conducted in advance of the construction of the new Tyne Tunnel. Perhaps a study of contemporary and competing perceptions should also consider the archaeologist's experience and perceptions of the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow, and how these perspectives differ at different sites and across time. However, this could be a project in itself, which may not be viable within this project's time constraints.

Publications based on local studies have explored the cultural past of the areas of Jarrow and Wearmouth (c.f. Clarke *et al* 1989, Cockerill 2009, Cuthbert *et al* 2004, Meikle *et al* 2007, Perry 2005 and 2009 and Sunderland Echo 2009). These publications frequently focus upon the last two centuries and consist of old photographs from newspapers and private collections (*Ibid*). For example, *Retro: Remembering our Heritage Industries* draws together photographs and newspaper articles to illustrate Wearside's industrial heritage (Sunderland Echo 2009). Newspaper archivist, Susan Swinney commented,

'People *are* our history- without miners, shipbuilders and factory workers, the Sunderland of today would not exist. We have a lot to be grateful for.'

(Sunderland Echo 2009: 1) Italics by author.

Susan Swinney's words and the popularity of local studies indicate the strong influence the recent past has had upon both contemporary physical features and cognitive interpretations of

landscapes. It is therefore imperative that participants of this study are able to express their perspectives about any aspect of the landscape and cultural connections without feeling inclined to focus narratives upon the monastic remains at Wearmouth and Jarrow and the bid for World Heritage Status.

The public have previously been consulted about the Wearmouth-Jarrow bid for World Heritage Status. The Wearmouth-Jarrow Partnership commissioned the Wood House Group to conduct a three month public consultation project in 2009 (Wood House Group 2009: 1). Public consultation involved promotion of the World Heritage bid and collection of feedback. Participants provided feedback about the bid through *The Book of Life*, a visitor comments book, emails, online surveys, comments at events, and responses to newspaper adverts, letters and consultation leaflets (*Ibid*: 5 - 6). The project gathered 8,194 public responses, most of which expressed support for the World Heritage Bid as they consider the sites to have significant value (Wood House Group 2009: 11 - 12). The public consultation document provided an important contribution to our understanding of how members of the public view the monastic sites (Wood House Group 2009: 17) Positive feedback about the bid often referred to the sites' importance as the foundation of the Christian Church in Britain (*Ibid*: 23). The public consultation provided a useful quantitative insight into public perceptions of the bid, but it was, however, focused upon the monastic remains and immediate surroundings. Therefore, alternate features in the locality which could also be regarded as significant by local people remain unexplored. This project did however extract insights into how the public perceive the zones involved in the bid for WHS:

'It's under developed and run down with loads of empty buildings that are eye-sores'

'... it is a lovely place to visit'

(Wood House Group 2009: 17 & 24)

In addition, Sunderland City Council initiated a six-week public consultation period in 2010 which aimed to explore public perceptions of the proposed WHS buffer zone at St Peter's Riverside and Bonnersfield in Wearmouth (Sunderland City Council 2010: Online). The project was pioneered as an aspect of pre-planning conditions for proposed University, residential and business developments within the World Heritage Buffer Zone (*Ibid*). It is intended that public feedback will be used in conjunction with an environmental assessment and visual analysis project to ensure the preservation and enhancement of St Peter's landscape context (Sunderland City Council 2010: Online). The results of this project are still in the process of being analysed.

The Contemporary and Competing Vistas project will provide a new facet to the qualitative investigations which have been pioneered by the Wood House Group and Sunderland City Council. A wider geographical area will be considered which includes both Wearmouth and Jarrow. This will facilitate comparison between public perceptions of two geographically separate sites interconnected by cognitive outlooks. In addition, this project will also consider aspects of the landscape which are not related to the WHS bid, the medieval monastic sites or their immediate hinterlands.

1.5.3. Investigation Methods

Social research utilizes both quantitative and qualitative methods to collect relevant data. Quantitative methods translate perceptions of the world into a quantifiable form, for example through surveys (Philip 1998: 264). This method is frequently critiqued for its general, deterministic and simplified conclusions (c.f. Barrett 1994: 1, Morgan *et al* 1993: 16). Quantitative methods are useful for the collection of large quantities of data which can be used to discern statistical conclusions (Philip 1998: 266). Qualitative methods involve the collection of meanings rather than data that can facilitate quantification and numerical scrutiny (*Ibid*). Data collection methods include interviews, focus groups, diaries and auto-photography (Valentine

2001: 41). Philip explored the potential of using both quantitative and qualitative methods in human geography and concluded that a combination of approaches can be effective in social research (Philip 1998: 273). In order to ascertain the most suitable approaches for this study, both quantitative and qualitative methods will be analyzed in the following section to assess their suitability for this project.

Surveys are utilized to gather quantifiable data, which can be used to ascertain general consensus about themes, such as heritage (c.f. Arksey 1999: 34). This method was employed in Cornwall prior to their World Heritage Bid for Cornish Mining (Cornwall Council 2004: 3 - 4). A postal survey was arranged by the WHS steering group in order to gain an insight into local opinions about the Cornish industrial sites (*Ibid.*: 2 - 3). The study found that the public wanted locations associated with Cornish Mining to be incorporated into a joint World Heritage Site because this would protect Cornwall's industrial heritage for future generations. However, the success of the survey was limited by the lack of public responses. Only 50.8% of surveys were returned to the Steering Group (*Ibid.*). As demonstrated within this study, efforts to gather statistically representative data can be problematic due to non-participation. Nevertheless, the study did collate an invaluable snap-shot of contemporary opinion about Cornwall's industrial heritage. A similar study was conducted by the Wood House Group (2009) for the Wearmouth and Jarrow partnership in advance of the WHS bid (i.e. Section 1.5.2. pp. 21 - 24).

Public surveys have provided insights into contemporary understanding of archaeological remains. This was demonstrated by Lahiri *et al's* exploration of perceptions of the archaeological landscape near in Haryana, India. Feedback, collected via the circulation of surveys, revealed that the public had a vast knowledge of local archaeological sites (Lahiri *et al* 1999: 184). Aristimuno *et al* (1998: 91 - 92) also used survey techniques to gain insights into participant's activities at Temple Monuments, Kobe City and their perceptions about proposed developments. The surveys were followed up with interviews in order to allow participants to

elaborate upon their perceptions (*Ibid.*: 93). The project identified that there was a great diversity in preference over places in the landscape, which was influenced by the participants' cultural background (Aristimuno *et al* 1998: 101). Surveys are useful methods for the collection of quantifiable data; however, to understand perspectives of landscapes, qualitative methods may be more appropriate for this study. This is because qualitative methods have more scope for participants to elaborate upon their thoughts, as demonstrated by Aristimuno *et al's* (1990) multi-method approach.

Interviews are frequently used to collect qualitative data in human geography because this method allows the participant to elaborate upon their experiences (Smith 2001: 28 - 29). Also, in semi-structured interviews, researchers can query responses and ask new questions (Arksey *et al* 1999: 9). Most interviews are conducted one-to-one; however, there are many variations of interviews, such as group interviews and oral histories sessions (Arksey *et al* 1999: 78, Howath 1999, Fontana *et al* 2008: 119). Fontana *et al* (2008: 115 - 116) critiques interviews for the production of 'historically, politically and contextually,' biased narratives between interviewee and interviewer. However, without a doubt, interviews are useful in investigations of perceptions; for example, Daehke (2007) explored competing perspectives between stakeholders and the Chinook tribe about Cathlapotle, a Native American Village in Columbia. It was found that both parties held contrasting views about how the heritage site should be managed (*Ibid.*: 270). The identification of contested opinions facilitated the synthesis of management plans which were suited to both groups (c.f. Thomas *et al* 1996). Lillehammer (2009: 253) also investigated the comparison between public and stakeholder perceptions, focusing upon heritage and environmental management in rural Norway (*Ibid.*). The investigation involved interviews and a drawing task (Lillehammer 2009: 253). Lillehammer (2009: 267) found that the adoption of a multi-faceted approach enabled greater insights into perceptions of the landscape to be obtained. Analysis of drawings facilitated the identification of the personal bonds which

the public had with the landscape, which contrasted the stakeholders less personal connection (*Ibid*: 263 - 264). As identified in this study, the adoption of a dual-approach can assist the acquisition of deeper and more meaningful insights. In order to explore the potential of interview research further, the next sections consider variations of this approach which can be used in conjunction with other methods.

Focus groups involve a group discussion about the topic which is being investigated by the researcher (Goss *et al* 1996: 113). Focus group sessions facilitate the collection of qualitative data and case studies, as opposed to quantifiable and representative data (Bedford *et al* 2001: 125). This method is often beneficial to projects, as participants have the freedom to actively express, discuss, interrupt, concur with and challenge the opinions of other group members (*Ibid*: 123). Burgess (1996: 130) advocates focus groups as useful for collecting insightful qualitative data for projects which have a short time frame. However, this method can have limited success if participants have a partial interest in the topic which is being discussed (Bedford *et al* 2001: 125). Focus group research frequently utilizes homogenous groups of participants with same demographic backgrounds to facilitate the comparison of competing view expressed between different groups (c.f. Burgess 1996, Huigen *et al* 2005, Reid 2005 and Strang 1999). This is based on the assumption that different types of people perceive things differently (Bedford *et al* 2001: 125). The usefulness of this approach was demonstrated by Reid (2005), Huigen *et al* (2005) and Strang (1999). Reid investigated public use and understanding of townships in Northern Ireland (Reid 2005). By using homogenous groups, this study identified that groups imposed different socially constructed boundaries upon the townscape. Boundary classifications were influenced by the participants' memories, personal and shared identities, and sense of belonging (Reid 2005: 48 - 57). Definitions of these socially constructed boundaries differed between the homogenous groups and were identified as a catalyst for everyday conflict (*Ibid*). Huigen *et al* (2005) utilized trade defined homogenous groups and identified that

contemporary perceptions of the past, present and future of De Venen in Randstand were influenced by the participant's economic background (2005: 23 - 25). Strang (1999) also identified that the cultural backgrounds of the participants had a strong influence upon how landscapes are perceived. Strang compared the perceptions of the Cape York Peninsula in Northern Queensland between native Kowanyama to Australian cattle farmers. The Kowanyama considered the landscape as meaningful because it connects their identity with their ancestral past (Strang 1999: 211 - 215). The Australian farmers considered the landscape as an economic resource (*Ibid*). These studies highlight the importance of utilizing homogenous groups in this research project in order to ensure that comparable insights can be obtained, for instance; themes such as cultural and economic backgrounds can be identified as factors which distinguish contested perceptions. However, not all academics agree on the validity of using homogenous groups. Smith *et al* (2009: 18) argued that communities and groups of people are heterogeneous and changeable rather than constant and homogenous (i.c. DuBois 2000: 75). Therefore, the term 'homogenous' groups is simplistic, generalized, deterministic and ignores the importance of individual differences. Nevertheless, these studies demonstrate that the focus group method can stimulate insightful discussions about public perceptions of their landscapes.

Oral histories involve the recording in films and digital sound participants' past experiences and topics in an interview-type environment (Howarth 1999: 1). This form of data is especially useful for museums in recording the social significance of objects, documents and personal experiences associated to specific events (Howarth 1999: 11). Oral histories have influenced contemporary development and management of heritage centres. This was demonstrated at Broken Hill in New South Wales (Landorf 2000 and Morris 2009: Online). Upon the pre-empted closure of the Broken Hill Mines, it was proposed that a history and culture centre should be established to commemorate the areas mining heritage for future generations (Landorf 2000: 92 - 93). It was suggested by the architectural team that the contemporary local

community should have an input into the content of the visitor centre (*Ibid*: 93). To achieve this, a weekend was organised whereby members of the public were invited to make oral recordings of their experiences of the mines and associated settlement (*Ibid*). The results of this study were incorporated into the design of the visitor centre which was completed in December 2000 (Morris 2009: Online). This case study demonstrates that perceptions and memories of contemporary people can provide an invaluable input into the design and management of heritage sites. In addition, recording oral histories allows the identification of contemporary meanings, experiences, memories and perceptions (Howarth 1999: 65). This foresight will enable cultural meanings of the contemporary landscape to be recognized, preserved and understood for contemporary and future generations.

Howarth (1999: 65) recognised that oral histories are useful to identify how people perceive and engage with landscapes. Brummond (2000) demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach in a study which considered perceptions of the environment in Ukraine. The study identified that the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster dominates contemporary political and social perceptions of the environment, while other environmental issues are overlooked (Brummond 2000: 55 & 61). Participants for oral history sessions were selected from focus group sessions (*Ibid*: 55). Using focus groups in conjunction with oral history sessions, Brummond (2000) collected insightful qualitative data which allowed participants to elaborate upon themes relative to the study. In addition, detailed personal opinions about the research topic were collected which would have been problematic to collect by quantitative methods.

Photographic elicitation is defined by Harper (2002: 13) as the use of a photograph during an interview. Harper (2002: 13) and Howarth (1999: 1 & 199) argue that photographs can act as a stimulus to provoke deeper thoughts and memories to a greater extent than interviews alone (c.f. Young *et al* 2001: 151). Photographic elicitation has been used by human geographers, anthropologists and sports scientists to investigate the ways in which people engage and interact

with their environments (c.f. Collier 1957, Fitzjohn 2009, Loeffler 2004, Tunstall *et al* 2004 and Young *et al* 2001). One of the earliest referenced photographic elicitation exercises was conducted in 1957 by the anthropologist Paul Collier. This study demonstrated that photographs can reduce discrepancies in interviews and in research. Collier instigated a housing survey to plan the distribution of affluent and poverty ridden areas in Stirling (Collier 1957: 844). However, the researchers who conducted the survey judged the 'hierarchy' of properties based upon their own cultural backgrounds (*Ibid*: 845). To resolve these discrepancies, Collier produced a typology of houses through photography, which ensured cohesion of definitions (*Ibid*: 146). Collier also argues that photographs can be utilized as a cultural map which can enhance an interview and reduce rambling (Collier 1957: 858). This study demonstrated the usefulness of photographs as visual stimuli, which can aid cohesion between research colleagues. It can therefore be assumed that photographs may be a useful tool to enhance cohesion between interviewer and interviewee in the discussion of landscapes. This is because, as landscapes are perception based, a photograph could allow the interviewer to be directed towards what the interviewee deems as important.

The potential for photography to ensure cohesion between interviewer and interviewee was inadvertently explored by Harper (2002: 20). Harper (2002: 20) investigated contemporary farming phenomenology. To investigate this, Harper took photographs of the local landscape and copies of aerial photographs which he used in interviews with the farmers. The farmers did not respond much to the landscape photos which Harper took, however they did respond to the aerial photos. This suggests that photographic elicitation exercises can have limited success, due to the use of photos which have little relevance to the participant (*Ibid*: 20). In addition, Harper also argues that participants would focus upon what they could see in the photo and did not talk about what was not there (Harper 2002: 18). Harper's study indicates that photographic elicitation exercises can be problematic when studying landscapes. Photographs taken by the

researcher and issued to participants can act as an imposed ethic which encourages the participant to discuss issues relevant to that image and not talk about landscapes which are important to them.

Recent photographic elicitation exercises have rectified the problems which Harper (2002) identified. Sports scientist Loeffler (2004: 536) studied 14 participants and their college-based outdoor activities. After a college trip, students who had taken photographs were invited to participate in the study (*Ibid*: 536). Participants were selected after the trip to ensure that they enjoyed their experiences without thinking about the research and to prevent observer effects - for example, take photos which they perceive will please the researcher (*Ibid*: 553). Participants were then interviewed and asked to talk about their experiences of the outdoors (Loeffler 2004: 541). By recruiting participants after their trip, Loeffler did not interfere with the participants' experiences or influence the photographic outcomes. The project was therefore participant-led, allowing their perceptions of the outdoors to be investigated with limited influence from the researcher.

Photographic elicitation has been utilized to gather data on children's perceptions of local environments (c.f. Tunstall *et al* 2004). Similar to Loeffler (2004), Tunstall *et al* (2004) adopted a participant led methodology to investigate primary school children's perceptions and engagement at the site of two rivers in London. The children were asked to take photos of elements of the environment which interested them. In order to explore the cognitions behind the photographs, the children were asked to record what they photographed and why (Tunstall *et al* 2004: 183 - 184). The advantage of this approach was that the children had the medium to explain their cognitions behind the photographs they took (*Ibid*: 184). This meant that the researcher gained a greater insight into the participants' thought process and did not interpret assumed meanings from the photos (c.f. Young *et al* 2001). Tunstall *et al* (2004) identified that the project methods had limited success in recording children's perceptions of the

environments. This is because, by using cameras, there was a heavy bias towards their visual perceptions (*Ibid.*: 200). However, an insight into their positive and negative perceptions of the environment was achieved (*Ibid.*). An alternate method to photographic elicitation was demonstrated by Yuen (2004), which addressed problems identified by Tunstall *et al* (2004). Child participants were asked to draw a picture about how they felt towards camp on the first week and again on their last day (Yuen 2004: 481). This method allowed the researcher to understand their experiences and provided a fun activity for the children to visually express their perception (*Ibid.*). Unlike Tunstall *et al's* (2004) study, children in Yuen's drawing elicitation exercise could reflect upon their experiences and perceptions of camp rather than upon current visual stimuli. Photographic and drawing elicitation can be a useful method to help explore how landscapes are perceived, albeit, not without some methodological problems. The combination of this method with additional approaches may facilitate the collection of relevant data for this project.

The study of existing documents can also provide qualitative insight into contemporary perceptions. This was demonstrated by Thomas *et al* (1996). Thomas *et al* studied the influence of a community paper called *Making Waves* and the extent that articles in the paper influenced the re-development of Cardiff Bay (*Ibid.*: 186 - 187). This study identified that *Making Waves* acted as a medium of communication between the local community and the stakeholders. Re-development proposals were subsequently adapted to meet the needs of both parties (*Ibid.*: 186). This study demonstrates two points; firstly, that contemporary public perceptions sometimes do have channels of expression through local papers. Secondly, that effective communication between developers and the public can allow re-developments to take into account all who express their opinion. The limitation of this study is the fact that only certain members of the community expressed their opinions about the re-development (Thomas *et al* 1996). Desk-based assessments are limited by their reliance upon evidence which has already been produced, which

can only be passively queried (Howarth 1999: 11). However, documentary research used in conjunction with interviews facilitates greater understanding of the social context of primary sourced qualitative data (*Ibid*).

Contemporary qualitative studies have endeavoured to use modern technology such as Geographical Information Systems to understand perceptions of landscapes (c.f. Fitzjohn 2009, McMullan 2005). GIS were designed to store, analyze and display spatially referenced data (Allen *et al* 1990: 3). Fitzjohn (2009: 238 - 9) argues that GIS is integral for contemporary archaeological research and cultural resource management, as the system can store spatial records, visualize data for third parties, analyze data and spatial relationships (c.f. Stine *et al* 1990: 80). Archaeologists, anthropologists and geographers also use GIS to predict the location of archaeological sites and changes to environments (Carmichael 1990, Marozas *et al* 1990 and Warren 1990). However, it has not been until the last decade that academics have attempted to use GIS to store and analyze qualitative data. For example, McMullan's (2005) study 'Room to Rhyme' re-explored the Irish Tradition of 'Mumming' in order to evaluate the usefulness of using Geographical Information Systems to process qualitative data. McMullan found that GIS was useful to spatially arrange the distribution of the tradition and to identify regional trends (*Ibid*). However, in this case, GIS did little to enhance distribution maps produced in earlier studies, but it was useful for the storing and processing of data (McMullan 2005: 73 - 83). However, Fitzjohn (2009: 241 - 242) argues that GIS is an invaluable tool for storage and querying data collected from a multi-method approach. In Sicily's Troina project, Fitzjohn used GIS to store and synthesize topographical, archaeological, historical and contemporary ethnographical research (2009: 244). Contemporary perceptions of the landscape were collected through photographic elicitation exercises, drawing tasks and oral histories (*Ibid*). All this data was incorporated into the GIS system through hyperlinks and assisted Fitzjohn's interpretation that contemporary people have different spatial understandings created through the individual's own

perceptions of the landscape (Fitzjohn 2009: 239 - 249). For example, in the photographic elicitation task, the academic participant group took photographs of features in the landscape that interested them, the same features were not always perceived to be important to the local population (*Ibid*: 246, see also Harper 2002). In addition, local residents also produced a range of drawings which depicted landscapes with personal importance however the same landscapes were rarely identified in photographs taken by the researchers (Fitzjohn 2009: 239). GIS can therefore be seen as a useful tool to analyze and display variations in perceptions of landscapes.

1.5.4. Summary

The evaluation of theoretical frameworks, former research in regards to perceptions and landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow, and analysis of multi-disciplinary methodological approaches has facilitated the formation of a focused set of aims and objectives (i.c. Section 1.6. pp. 35 - 36). The aims and objectives have been created in response to the project's initial brief incorporated in the OMTP research framework (Turner *et al* 2008), gaps identified in the literature review and questions inspired by previous method research. Consultation of existing literature will prevent repetition of methods already used in Wearmouth and Jarrow to collect data about contemporary perceptions of the landscape, for example, the Wood House Group Public Consultation project. The assessment of methods has also highlighted the importance of selecting appropriate methodological approaches which will attain valid results to achieve the project's aims. In view of methods assessed in this review, this project will use a combined approach which will involve interviews, focus groups, photographic and drawing elicitation methods to gather data (i.c. Chapter 2). This project will not use surveys or quantitative methods, as a deeper qualitative insight will be necessary to understand contemporary perceptions. Qualitative data gathered through public engagement will be processed and analyzed via GIS. GIS will be used in order to maintain cohesion with the OMTP study, where GIS is used as a key component in the analysis of spatial data (Turner *et al* 2008).

1.6. Aims and Objectives:

The following aims outline what the project endeavours to achieve:

- i) Collect qualitative insights into the diversity of contemporary public perceptions of the past and present landscapes of Jarrow and Wearmouth;
- ii) Examine competing perceptions to evaluate the extent that members of the study identify the monastic importance of the landscape. In addition, alternate perceptions of landscapes discussed by participants, such as industrial, social and residential landscapes, will be explored;
- iii) Evaluate participant references which link the landscapes of Jarrow and Wearmouth to each other and to external sites;
- iv) Interpret contemporary perceptions of the landscape and consider factors which may have influenced these perceptions, such as memory, experience, land-use, emotions and cultural identities;
- v) Gain a greater insight into contemporary use of the landscape in Jarrow and Wearmouth to provide a contrast to findings in the OMTP landscape study;
- vi) Establish whether participants of different ages consider landscapes of Jarrow and Wearmouth differently;
- vii) Ascertain the public and steering group's perceptions of the potential influence that achievement of World Heritage Status will have on the future of the Jarrow and Wearmouth Monastic Landscapes;

- viii) Re-assess the potential of GIS as an important tool in the collection and analysis of qualitative data.

The following objectives outline the actions which will be taken during this project;

- i) Conduct a participant-led investigation to understand how members of the public perceive their local landscapes;
- ii) Create a digital map using GIS software. This will incorporate data that illustrates how the public perceive, use, and understand landscapes of Jarrow and Wearmouth;
- iii) Produce a project which can dove-tail into the OMTP landscape study;
- iv) Create a visual display of the projects research findings for the OMTP exhibit which will take place in 2011;
- v) Ensure that the results of this thesis are adequately disseminated.

1.7. The Organization of Thesis

In chapter two the research strategy and methods evaluated in the literature review appropriate for the collection and analysis of data for this study are outlined. In addition, the number of required participants and strategies for recruitment are discussed. In this chapter the ethical implications of the study are explored and methods of dissemination are considered.

The main body of the thesis considers themes which were identified in participant feedback. In chapter three, contemporary perceptions of the physical and cognitive boundaries which were identified in feedback are deliberated upon in order to ascertain an insight into the perceived permeability of the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow. In addition, perceived connections between the landscapes of Jarrow and Wearmouth and sites external of this study's geographical parameters are also discussed. In chapter four the diverse ways in which participants of the study reflected upon past and present forms of land-use are explored. In addition, this chapter includes cartographic representations of participant's perceptions of land-use in order to highlight the forms of land-use which are important to participants of this project. In chapter five the importance of experiences, memories, memories and emotions attached to the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow are explored in order to ascertain the extent to which intangible factors influence contemporary perceptions. Contemporary perceptions of the World Heritage Bid are also discussed.

To conclude this thesis, chapter six explores the key themes identified in this project and relates them to wider research and heritage discourses. In addition limitations to this study are considered in order to elucidate recommendations for policy makers, the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership and further academic study.

Chapter 2

Research Strategy

2.1. Introduction

An 'interpretative phenomenological approach' was selected as the studies theoretical framework in light of the literature review which showed the strength of this model (i.c. Section 1.5.1. pp. 17 - 21). This approach facilitated the collection of a range of primary data which was assessed and evaluated to discern how people use, understand, experience and perceive the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow. It was deemed imperative that a multi-faceted method was employed to collect qualitative, visual and spatial information as required by objectives: I, II, IV, and VI (i.c. Literature Review pp. 21 - 34.). Four principle methods were used to collect data; interviews, focus groups, photographic and drawing elicitation. A pilot study was conducted in April 2010 in order to refine methods prior to the data collection period programmed to take place between May and October 2010. The pilot study led to a few alterations to the data collection process which are outlined below (a complete summary of the pilot study are available in Volume 2, Appendix 2). The collection of primary in addition to secondary data such as published research and previous surveys was necessary in order to gather direct insights into contemporary perceptions of the two sites. The depth of feedback collected in this study would have been unobtainable through the use of secondary data alone.

This chapter outlines and evaluates the methods used to collect; process and analyze raw data, in addition to the approaches used to select and recruit participants. Measures designed to ensure a high ethical standard throughout the project based are outlined. Ethical standards were based upon guidance provided by Durham Universities Archaeological Ethics Guidance and the British Sociologists Association (2002: Online) (i.c. Section 2.2.4. pp. 48 - 50, further details are also available in Volume 2, Appendix 2, pp. 49 - 51). Section 2.7. provides a speculative view

into the ways in which the results of this project will be disseminated in 2011. This chapter concludes with a discussion about the reliability and validity of collected data.

2.2. Research Methods

Methods used to collect data were flexible to accommodate the preferences of participants and to provide individuals with the option of selecting the level of involvement that they would prefer. For example, some participants chose to be involved in photographic and drawing elicitation exercises followed by a focus group session. Others opted to participate in one-to-one interviews without involvement in any elicitation exercise. The type of involvement for pre-existing participant groups was decided upon based on recommendations provided by gatekeepers. Methods developed to collect data for this project are discussed below.

2.2.1. Data collection methods

Photographic and drawing elicitation methods were employed to gather visual and spatial data about the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow. Photographic elicitation involved participants' navigating areas within the study's geographical parameters (Zones 2 and/or 3 see Figures 1.1 and 1.2. p. 16) to take photographs of landscape which have personal or local significance. It was intended that a Geographical Positioning System (GPS) would be used to obtain a spatial reference for each photograph. However, as identified in the pilot study, in practice this method was problematic because of difficulties ensuring the co-ordination between the photographer and the individual taking waypoints on the GPS. In analysis it was also a challenge to connect some photographs with their spatial references; and therefore some photographs were issued approximate locations (i.e. Figures 3.6 and 3.7 pp. 70 – 71 for plotted spatial locations of photographs). Unlike Harper's (2002) study participants had the freedom to take photographs of landscapes and features which were of significance or interest to themselves and therefore, reducing the level of researcher influences (i.e. pp. 29 - 30). The photographic elicitation

method was chosen because it allowed participants to engage with local landscapes prior to focus group discussions. It was hoped that this exercise would encourage participants to provide a more insightful account of their perceptions of the local area. In practice, the photographic elicitation exercise was a valuable method which facilitated the collection of spatial, visual and in-depth qualitative data, when used in conjunction with the focus group method.

Focus groups were arranged in order to obtain a qualitative insight into participants' perceptions of Jarrow or Wearmouth's landscapes. If participants had been involved in photographic elicitation exercise, photographs were reviewed at the beginning of the focus group session. As identified in associated literature, participants involved in the photographic elicitation exercise used photographs as visual stimulus which provoked discussions about memories and experiences associated to that place (i.c. p. 29 - 31). In addition photographs helped to maintain relevant discussions (c.f. Collier 1957: 858). Semi-structured questions were used to encourage participants to reflect upon their perceptions, usage, reception, memories of the landscape (i.c. Table 2.1 for sample questions pp. 41 - 42). In addition, participants were asked if they are aware of the World Heritage Bid, and if they think that success of the bid would influence the way that people perceive local landscape. Both focus group sessions and interviews were recorded on a Dictaphone or in note form dependent upon participant consent.

The interview method was used as an alternative to the focus groups because coordinating sessions with some participants was problematic due to people's personal schedules. Interviews were also arranged for participants who were unable to attend or feel uncomfortable attending a focus group session. Interviews facilitated the collection of personal perceptions of the landscapes, although unlike focus group sessions there was less discussion and debate about the topic. Sample questions which were used during focus group and interviews are justified in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. *Guide questions used in Focus Group and Interview Sessions:*

i. What is your connection with Jarrow and, or Wearmouth?
This question was asked in order to ascertain how the participants perceive themselves in relation to the landscape. For example, as a resident, stakeholder or visitor.
ii. What were your first impressions of the landscape of Jarrow and, or Wearmouth?
Question ii was used to encourage participants to discuss the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow. The broad nature of this question, often inspired participants to discuss their memories and experiences without subsequent interviewer intervention (for examples, see Volume 2, Appendix 5).
iii. How do you view the landscape of Jarrow and, or Wearmouth today?
This query was devised to incite participants to consider the contemporary landscape and both tangible and intangible aspects which have personal or communal significance.
iv. What do you think is the most important aspect of the landscape in Jarrow and, or Wearmouth?
Question iv. was designed to encourage participants to be more specific about significant tangible and intangible aspects of the landscape.
v. How do you use the landscape of Jarrow and, or Wearmouth?
In order to achieve aim V (i.c. p. 35), it was imperative that participants were asked to discuss how they use the landscape.

Table 2.1. *Continued from p.41.*

<p>vi. What are your most memorable experiences of being in Jarrow and, or Wearmouth?</p>
<p>This question was asked in order to discern intangible connections participants have with the landscape. In addition, this question was used to inspire participants to be reflective about their experiences and perceptions of change and continuity in the landscape.</p>
<p>vii. Before hearing about this project, had you heard about the Wearmouth-Jarrow World Heritage Bid?</p>
<p>Members of the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership were keen to discern how effective publication of the forthcoming World Heritage Bid had been in reaching audiences with no or little connection to the Churches. This inquiry was also used to introduce question viii.</p>
<p>viii. Do you think that success of the World Heritage Bid will influence the way you view and use the landscape?</p>
<p>This question was designed to gain further insights into public perception about the World Heritage Bid for Wearmouth-Jarrow to add to those collected by the Wearmouth-Jarrow Partnership and consultation programmes. In practice, this question provoked deeper insights than anticipated. Participants commented upon their perceptions of local heritage, the landscape and feelings of local pride (i.c. Chapter 5).</p>

The drawing elicitation exercise was originally designed for participants who were unable to partake in the photographic elicitation exercise for personal or medical reason. This exercise provided participants the option of drawing landscapes which have personal importance. The approximate positions of the features they drew would then have been located on a paper map. However, no adult participants opted to participate in this aspect of the project and those asked expressed a preference for providing a narrative about their perceptions. The drawing elicitation method was used however, to involve local school children in the project. School children aged between five and nine years old were asked to draw local landscapes or features and then provide a verbal explanation of what they drew and why (data summarized in Appendix 4, pp. 54 - 62).

Initial elicitation sessions were problematic because the instructions issued by the researcher were not understood by the participants. For instance, some of the younger children did not understand the term *landscape*. To resolve this issue, teachers and class room assistants were consulted to suggest improvements to issued instructions. One of the suggestions was to make instructions relevant to studied topics. For example, one class was studying the topic of holidays therefore in the drawing elicitation task they were design a postcard about Jarrow to depict local places. Another class were studying the theme of Pirates. This group was asked to draw pictures based on what they think a pirate would see if they arrived in Jarrow for the first time. This class also wrote some short stories about what the pirate did when they visited Jarrow which provided insights into activities the participants themselves were involved in such as swimming and visiting the park. Relating instructions for the drawing elicitation task was effective in the sense that it provoked a lot of interesting responses. Most of the drawings remained focused upon landscapes in Wearmouth and Jarrow and often reflected upon specific experiences or encounters. However, the validity of this method is questionable because in order to relate the elicitation task with facets of the children's courses none of the elicitation groups were issued

the same instructions. Therefore the extent to which the results can be compared between each class is questionable. In hindsight a pilot study into drawing elicitation methods should have been conducted in order to construct a cohesive and comprehensible set of instructions suitable for this age range. Nevertheless children appeared to get great enjoyment out of creating art work, and even more so because the elicitation exercise related to topics they had been studying. In addition this exercise reaffirms the conclusions of former studies that this method has the potential to gain in-depth insights in both visual and narrative forms (c.f. Fitzjohn 2009, Young *et al* 2001, Yuen 2004 and i.c. Chapter 1, pp. 30 - 31).

Secondary data was consulted before, during and after the data collection period. This allowed landscape, participant's narratives, drawings and photographs to be considered in the historical and contemporary contexts. Therefore, past and present events which have shaped participants perspectives could be ascertained.

2.2.2. The recruitment of participants

Prior to the data collection period a participant specification was produced in order to outline categories and sample size required to achieve all of the aims and objectives. To identify competing trends in the ways that people perceive the landscape, participant groups and single interviewee's were categorized as *public*, *stakeholder* or *WHS partnership* based upon the definitions in Section 1.3.2. (pp.13 - 14). Defined categories were used to facilitate comparisons between data in subsequent analysis (c.f. Knodel 1993: 39 - 40). Unfortunately, no stakeholders volunteered to participate in the project directly. The Port of Tyne did however provide a package of brochures and leaflets which explained their commercial enterprises. There could be many explanations for the lack of stakeholder participation. Perhaps the methods used to recruit participants were not suitable, stakeholders may not have seen the value of this study or simply may not have had the time to participate (c.f. Entrikin 1991: 13). Due to the time constraints the

reasons behind the lack of stakeholder participation could not be explored, therefore making it difficult to alter recruitment techniques and the project methodology to be more suitable for stakeholder involvement.

Table 2.2. (p. 45) illustrates the estimated sample size of the ideal number of participants and sessions required to gather and process sufficient data within the available time period. Due to the participation of two schools in Jarrow, the actual number of participants exceeded the maximum estimation of required contributions (i.e. Tables 2.2. and 2.3.). However, this did not inhibit the data analysis process because teenage participants preferred the Dictaphone not to be used in focus group sessions, and therefore, there was less data to transcribe than anticipated.

Table 2.2. *Proposed quantities of data required:*

Number of sessions:	Number of sessions:	Number of Participants:
Interviews	Min:8 Max: 12	Min: 8 Max:12
Focus groups	Min: 6 Max: 12	Min:4 Max: 6
Photographic elicitation and focus group or interview.		
Drawing elicitation and writing activities		
Total number:	Min: 12 Max: 24	Min: 40 Max: 84

Table 2.3. *Summary of participants involved in the project:*

Number of sessions:	Number of sessions:	Number of Participants:
Interviews	9	9
Focus groups	3	17
Photographic elicitation and focus group or interview.	6	21
Drawing elicitation and writing activities	4	97
Questionnaire	1	1
Total number:	23	145

Semi-random sampling techniques were used to recruit participants, *gate-keepers* were used as key informants and some participants were recruited through *snow-balling* practices (c.f. Bedford 2001:126). Participants were also selected through successful contact via email, letter, and networking with pre-existing groups in Jarrow and Wearmouth. Groups such as; Local History Groups, Sailing clubs, Schools, Leisure and Fitness Groups, Youth Groups, Social Clubs and religious groups. Pre-existing groups were approached because participants will be familiar with each other and therefore it was hoped that they would feel freer to express their opinions about Wearmouth and Jarrow's landscapes (Holbrook *et al* 1996: 137 - 40). In addition, as identified by Holbrook (*Ibid*) the utilization of existing groups is less problematic to organize because participants already regularly meet at a specific time and place. As this project does not focus upon the collection of sensitive personal data, sessions which involve participants who are acquainted was not seen to be problematic (c.f. Burgess 1996 and Holbrook *et al* 2006: 140). The project was also publicized on the OMTP website (www.omtp.org.uk) which is hyperlinked to the Wearmouth-Jarrow World Heritage Candidate webpage (i.c. Appendix 3, p. 32 for advert).

2.2.3. Data Analysis

Qualitative audio recordings were transcribed onto a Microsoft Word document unaltered except for the removal or pseudo-replaced information which could identify participants who opted to remain anonymous (i.c. Appendix 2). Transcribing was identified by Knodel (1993: 44) as a time consuming process which could take up to two hours to transcribe each focus group session (c. 40 - 50 transcribed pages). Therefore, in the planning stage it was imperative that sample sizes were manageable to ensure that there was sufficient time to both transcribe and code collected data (i.c. p. 45). In order to speed up encoding, transcribed documents were imported into NVIVO a computer software programme which assists in the management of data and coding of themes (c.f. Knodel 1993: 45). Themes identified in transcripts were

subsequently researched as to available documentary evidenced in order to discern the extent to which people perceive landscapes in terms of historical, personal and, or shared experiences. Important historical, economical, military and social events which are not identified by participants were considered and evaluated as to possible reasons why no references were made to these topics.

Photographs taken during the photographic elicitation task were paired with their GPS reference (where available). Each reference was spatially arranged onto the Geographical Information System as illustrated in Figures 3.5 and 3.6. (pp. 70 - 71). In addition places identified by participants of the drawing elicitation exercise were approximately located (Figure 3.5). Erle (2005:28) argued that spatially arranged images on a GIS can provide insights into an individual's trip and experiences of the landscape. Based upon this hypothesis it was intended that elicitation data would facilitate comparisons between public, stakeholder and the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership in order to identify trends and ascertain differences in bearings and photographic themes. Unfortunately not enough participants from comparable groups agreed to participate in the photographic elicitation exercise, however as an exploratory study using a multi-faceted methodology, factors such as this can be learned from for future studies. Drawings and paintings produced in the elicitation exercise were photographed or scanned (dependent upon the size of the art work). Subsequently each photograph of art work and landscape (from the elicitation exercise) was issued a reference number which correlates to the file name of items burned onto the compact disk located in Appendix 6. Appendix 4 contains a series of databases which record participant feedback in relation to photographs and art work in addition to themes identified by the researcher.

In order to assess the potential of GIS for displaying intangible qualitative data two cartographic representation of perceived forms of contemporary land-use were created (i.c. Figures 3.6 and 3.7. pp. 70 - 71). Qualitative data collected in note form during elicitation

exercises and references of land-use identified in interview and focus group transcripts were encoded (i.c. Table 2.4, pp. 48 - 49 for definitions of encoded terms). Using ArcGIS and online satellite images, judgements about the extent of the shopping centre were made by the researcher in order to produce a polygon which represented the forms of land-use discussed by participants. In hindsight this method would have had greater validity if participants were issued maps which they could customise in order to depict perceived forms of land-use. However if this was conducted as a paper exercise without direct engagement with the landscape perhaps responses would focus upon an individual's knowledge rather than experiences and emotions.

Table 2.4. *Definition of terms used for the GIS*

Term:	Definition:
Commercial	Participant references made towards shops, local businesses and commercial enterprises were defined as commercial.
Ecological	The term ecological was used to reflect participant references made towards places where natural characteristics were identified, for example, wildlife, trees and the sea.
Educational	Places associated with learning.
Heritage	Heritage was defined as anything which participants regarded as having local 'value' and what they would like to 'pass on' to subsequent generations (Deacon <i>et al</i> 2004: 7).
Industrial	The term industrial was used in reference to places associated with the production of goods, such as the former ship yards in Wearmouth and Jarrow.
Leisure	Places associated with activities which are conducted in participant's spare time, for example; football, walking and cycling.
Memorial	Places associated with remembering special events, activities or individuals. This term was used for both intangible memorials and symbolic tangible monuments for example grave stones (c.f. Wylie 2009).

Table 2.4. *continued from page 48.*

Nostalgia	The term nostalgia was used to map places associated by participants with feelings of longing for a former time when things were different (c.f. Bennett 2009: 190 - 191).
Public Services	Public services include buildings such as police stations, hospitals, swimming pools and the town hall.
Religious	Religious or spiritual places were defined as locations associated with an individual's faith.
Residential	Places associated with domestic activities such as housing estates.
Social	Places categorized as social were those associated by participants with interactions with friends and family. Social places also included locations where encounters with local, national and international people occur.
Livestock Farm	A single reference made of a farm in Jarrow which was regarded as an un-commercial livestock farm.

2.2.4. Research Ethics

Ethical guidelines differ both internationally and interdisciplinary (c.f. Ryen 2007: 219 and Uzzell 2009: 330). To ensure that a high ethical standard was maintained throughout this project an *Ethics and Data Protection Form* was submitted to the Department of Archaeology's Ethics Peer Review Group (EPRG) for approval (signed version available in Appendix 2, pp. 5 - 7). The main ethical concerns identified by the EPRG guidelines and how this project will adhere to them are addressed below. Additional ethical information is available in Appendix 2.

To begin each interview, photographic elicitation and focus group session, participants were introduced to the researcher and briefed about the project and what they can expect if they choose to participate. The projects anonymity policy, copyright and their right to decline to

answer specific questions and withdraw from the project were explained. In addition participants were informed about how collected data will be used and disseminated. Participants were also introduced to equipment and asked if they have any objections to the use of an audio recording or a GPS device.

Informed consent was obtained verbally from participants after they had received information sheets, a project briefing and opportunity to ask questions. In addition written consent was asked to prevent copyright infringements for the use of direct quotes and photographs. Copies of these consent forms were deposited at Durham University to be kept anonymous. Arksey (1999: 134) recommends that storage arrangements are made in a lockable location to store any data which includes personal details and identifiers. As outlined by the British Sociological Association ethical guidelines (2002: 3) participants were under no pressure to provide informed consent or participate in the project. In addition they were informed about their right to withdraw from the study at any time (c.f. Ryen 2007: 219). Children under 16 had to have informed consent from a parents or guardian. Letters were issued and retained by the school. In addition, the children themselves were provided the opportunity to decide if they would like to be involved (c.f. Arksey 1999: 132).

The level of anonymity offered in this project was explained to each participant. The British Sociological Association (2002: 3) recommends that participants are provided with a realistic guarantee of the confidentiality which the project can facilitate. It is also the researcher's responsibility to ensure that this level of anonymity is maintained (Ryen 2007: 221). In this study upon participant request, identifiers (i.e. names) were replaced by the term Anon to ensure that the identities are protected. Due to the nature of qualitative research sometimes participant's identities can be surmised from photographs or quotes (c.f. Arksey 1999: 9). To avoid this, quotes which can be directly related to an individual who wishes to remain anonymous will also not be used in the study. In addition, sensitive personal data as defined by the Data Protection

Act (1998: 2) was omitted when audio records were transcribed. The identity of people captured in photographs will be maintained by pixilation of faces or cropping where appropriate (c.f. Ryen 2007: 221). Some participants expressed concerns about the use of a Dictaphone in sessions until it was explained that all audio recordings would be destroyed subsequent to transcription. Where participants still had reservations about the use of the Dictaphone interviews and focus groups were recorded in note form instead.

2.3. Reliability and Validity

The validity and reliability of the data can be assessed by the extent that employed methods provide an accurate insight into the diversity of contemporary and competing vistas of Wearmouth and Jarrow. Albrecht *et al* (1993) identified that the validity of focus group research can be limited by group think, researcher bias, low levels of trust, conformity, deception and face politeness. Krueger (1993: 75) also identified that the moderators preconceived ideas and impromptu cues can encourage and discourage certain topics of conversation will reduce the quality of research (c.f. Frey *et al* 1993: 27, Kneale 2001: 140, and Kobayashi 2001: 64). In order to address these issues, it was imperative that a good relationship was built with the participants and questions did not unintentionally influence participant responses with verbal cues. In addition the researcher maintained an open mind to the themes which may arise in discussion, and treating each theme with equal importance. Interventions were sometimes necessary in group discussions in order to ensure that conversations remained relevant to the projects aims (c.f. Kneale 2001: 141).

As outlined in Section 1.3.2 (p. 13) this study aimed to explore the diversity of perceptions between the public, stakeholders and members of the steering group. Essentially, these three categories were the control characteristics which were used to define the participants (c.f. Knodel 1993: 39). The assignment of individuals and groups of participants into these

categories facilitated the comparison of perspectives with a loosely-controlled variable. The utilization of pre-defined categories in this study was essential in order to facilitate a clear understanding of the influences behind contemporary perceptions of the sites and to identify trends common within each group. However, this method was limited because of a lack of interest in participation in the elicitation tasks. A methodological issue which could be explored in future research. This project did however provide a snap-shot insight into the diversity of contemporary perceptions within a restricted selection of participants. It is acknowledged that the data collected in this project cannot be used as a generalized representation of public consensus and is only valid as a case-study (c.f. Bedford 2001: 126 and Stewart *et al* 2007: 54).

The photographic elicitation method is limited by the fact that only landscapes within a certain radius from the starting point could be captured within time restraints. To ensure that participants feel they showed landscapes to the researcher for its significance to them rather than its proximity, participants were asked if there are any landscapes they would have liked to have included which was not possible due to time constraints or distance.

2.4. Dissemination of results

The final objective of this project is to ensure that the results of this thesis are adequately disseminated. In order to achieve objective VI (i.c. p. 36) and adequately disseminate the project to diverse local, national and international audiences, it is imperative that a multi-faceted approach is adopted. As an aspect of the OMTP landscape study, it is appropriate that the results of this research are disseminated in conjunction with the foundation project. However, this study also has potential as a stand-alone case-study. The OMTP exhibition will be hosted at Jarrow and Wearmouth in 2011. This display will consist of a series of posters which aim to promote both projects to members of the public, local stakeholders, the Wearmouth-Jarrow partners and to ICOMOS in advance of the World Heritage Bid. A series of four posters will be

produced to provide a cohesive and informative insight into the ‘Contemporary and Competing Vistas’ project (i.e. Appendix 3, pp. 33 - 36 for draft versions of the posters). The posters will collate results collected through focus group, interview and elicitation sessions to provide an overview of this project. It is hoped that these posters will inspire local, national and international audiences to source the thesis and any associated published literature. Exhibitions are a tried and tested method of disseminating results. For example, a recent exhibit was held at the National Glass Centre called ‘Where were you when?’ the exhibit displayed photos from Sunderland Echo’s archives to highlight the city’s recent history and invoke discussion about life in Sunderland (Sunderland Echo 2009: 1).

In order to reach both local and wider audiences it is essential that the project is also adequately published. The thesis or a condensed version of the thesis will be made available at on the OMTP website as a PDF file. Paper copies of the report will be deposited at Durham and Newcastle Universities and will be accessible to the public. Wider national and international audiences will be reached through endeavours to publish a chapter in a co-authored monograph in conjunction with OMTP colleagues. Subsequently, it is intended that a research article will be produced to publish in an appropriate academic journal such as; *Cultural Geographies*, *Journal of Heritage Studies* or *Landscape Research*.

It is intended that the project can also be disseminated by a series of talks in association with the OMTP landscape study. A project abstract has also been submitted for the Oral History and Regeneration Conference, titled: *Creation, Destruction, Memory: Oral History and Regeneration*. The conference will be hosted at Sunderland University in 2011.

The British Sociological Association (2002: 2) identifies the importance of disseminating the results of projects. However, it also emphasises that the implications of the results and the possibility of misuse of the results by other parties (*Ibid*). The importance of considering the

implications of results was highlighted by DuBois (2000). The dissemination of ‘unpopular’ working class narratives produced negative feedback from other members of the public in José Ingenieros in Argentina (DuBois 2000: 75 - 76). However, as Aristimuno *et al* (1998: 91) identified that the dissemination of alternate perspectives of historical landscapes can help identify what is valued and should be preserved for future generations (c.f. Thomas *et al* 1996 and Landorf 2000). The results of this project could impact upon the way that the sites are perceived and managed to accommodate the variety of local perspectives of landscapes.

Chapter 3

Contemporary perceptions of the physical and cognitive boundaries in the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow.

3.1. Introduction

Brück *et al* (1999: 2) argued that people perceive and understand landscapes in terms of the physical and cognitive distinctions which they associate to specific places. Identification of these imposed classifications can therefore provide insights into the ways that contemporary people understand and conceptualize the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow (c.f. Ramenofsky 1998: 3). Contemporary landscape studies frequently impose pre-defined criteria to categorize areas into bounded units suitable to achieve the specific aims of a project (c.f. Brück *et al* 1999: 2, Cresswell 1996: 153, Fairclough 2005, Ling 2007 and Stabbletorp *et al* 2007). For example, the zones developed for the One Monastery in Two Places study segment the landscape into units which are manageable for that particular project (i.e. Section 1.4. pp.14 - 15). These zones provide an additional layer to the existing palimpsests of definitions; however as this chapter demonstrates, participants of this project regard these boundaries as having minor ecological validity. This is because the zones define the landscapes in relation to research-led objectives, which have limited parallels with what we might call *insider* or personal understandings of landscapes (c.f. Fitzjohn 2009, Harper 2002 and Hay 1999).

This chapter hypothesizes that insights into how contemporary people understand the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow can be discerned by the physical and cognitive distinctions used to differentiate one place from another. In-depth knowledge of how participants understand landscapes can be obtained through the evaluation of narratives which focus upon the interconnectivity between physical and cognitive units. This hypothesis was inspired by ecologists, Forman and Godron (1986) who argued that physical landscapes are

constructs formed by the relationships between *patches*, *corridors* and *surrounding matrices* (see also Hammett 1997, and Lynch 1960). The strength of this theory is in the emphasis which is placed upon the importance of mobility via corridors and the interrelationships between perceived land units or patches. This chapter will explore participant references made to patches (for example land zones defined by political, urban and natural attributes), corridors (networks of travel such as roads) and perceived relationships between Wearmouth and Jarrow in addition to sites external of the study's geographical parameters.

3.2. Segmentation of the Physical Landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow

Aspects of the physical landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow were often referred to by participants as either urban or natural. Natural and man-made features were considered to be separate elements which are closely linked in the composition of Wearmouth and Jarrow's landscapes. For example, James Kelly, a former student of Sunderland University, commented:

'There's the grass, it's not all completely brick and mortar, its staying sort of countryside people are walking their dogs and stuff.'

Members of the Sunderland University focus group also discussed the interconnectivity of natural and built features in the immediate landscape around St Peter's:

Adam Gawne: 'The last one [photograph] was just like the church with this greenery contrast to the more built up and kind of cant think of the word...'

Liam Bell: 'Congested,'

Adam: 'Yeah. Well that's the church there and just the university behind,'

Liam: 'Just shows the middle of the city where there's a bit of open space, it's nice to have a bit of grass aye, but you can't play football on [it],'

The interactive relationship between natural and tangible human alterations of landscapes was highlighted by Aalen (2004: 1) who argued that contemporary landscapes are formed from millennia of human interaction with the natural habitats (c.f. Naveh 2001: 275). Knapp *et al* (1999: 2) also emphasized that landscapes are not passive backdrops for human activities and adaptations; rather, they should be considered to be formed by the dynamic two-way relationship with human cultures (c.f. Harvey 2000: 210). To distinguish where landscapes have been changed to adhere to contemporary requirements and where people have adapted to the natural landscape is often problematic because of the close interconnected disposition between natural and built features (c.f. Tacon 1999: 33). However, some narratives suggested that those participants regard natural and human constructions as two distinct and disconnected forms of land units. For example Laura Sole, a member of the World Heritage Partnership, made a distinction between the townscapes and the ‘green space’ encountered on the Bede’s Way Walk:

‘Although they are industrial areas, both sites are industrial areas, if you do the Bede’s Way walk it does take you through a lot of green space and it does completely change the way that you see the sites.’

In addition to verbal references about the natural and industrial landscapes participants involved in the photographic elicitation exercise also appeared to make this distinction in their bearings. Most sessions resulted in deviations from the urban landscape to open areas of land such as the local parks; cemeteries and Bede Burn Valley (i.c. Figures 3.6 and 3.7. pp. 70 - 71). The reasons for this could be explained by the importance placed upon locations associated with social and recreational use as discussed in Chapter 4 (pp. 85 - 90). In addition emotional connections such as the ‘restorative properties’ associated to *natural* landscapes could explain why these places were perceived to be important (i.c. Chapter 5, pp. 107 - 108). As in the student quotes above participants who defined places as urban and natural also sub-divided these units in retrospect of their personal knowledge of past and present land-use (discussed further in Chapter 4, pp. 94

- 100). This trend is indicative of the importance of personal experiences, memories and knowledge as factors which influence the ways that landscapes are understood and characterized (discussed further in Chapter 5).

Primary age children involved in the drawing elicitation sessions frequently produced compositions which included man-made sculptures, buildings and vehicles in juxtaposition with natural features such as the sky, meteorology, trees and wildlife (i.c. Appendix 4). For example, Figure 3.1 depicts Morrison's, a local supermarket, situated within a natural landscape which consists of trees, sky, flowers and grass (p. 59). There are birds in the tree and also a fish pond. In addition, there are human figures in the foreground. Morrison's supermarket is actually situated in an urban landscape surrounded by paved areas and a car park (i.c. Figure 3.2. p. 59). It can only be speculated whether the participant has depicted a realistic representation of what they believed Morrison's is like or whether the picture reflects their belief of what a landscape picture should include. As Doukellis *et al* (2004: xiii & 1) notes, landscape art is the product of the desires of the artist influenced by their social and political ideologies. Therefore, the participants own beliefs, experiences and perceptions can be imposed upon their art work. Most built features depicted by the children were positioned beneath a sky with a foreground consisting of grass. Many of the participant drawings included meteorological components such as the sun, rain clouds and lightening, which is associated with how the landscape is not only defined but also experienced (discussed further in Chapter 5, pp.119 - 120). It could also be hypothesized that children create compositions which incorporate favourable aspects of landscapes into the same arrangement rather than being an accurate depiction of reality.

Figure 3.1. *Painting of Morrisons Supermarket by a student from Jarrow Cross Primary School*



Figure 3.2. (Above) Photograph of Morrisons Supermarket in Jarrow (Authors)

Meteorological features such as the sun, clouds, rain and lightening were frequent themes in the drawing elicitation exercise. In Chapter 5 the influence of meteorological conditions is discussed further (i.c. p. 120)

Natural features such as the tree, flowers, grass and wildlife are depicted in this composition.

The artist has drawn several human figures who they identified as relations and friends. The inclusion of human figures in landscape pictures could indicate cognitive associations made between landscapes and personal relationship (i.c. p. 61).

The clock and the yellow 'M' were symbols which were identified by the pupil as symbols which they had used to indicate that the building in the picture was Morrison's Supermarket. Symbols as indicators of companies occurred with moderate frequency in artwork. This could represent the impact of commercialism upon contemporary perceptions (i.c. pp. 102 – 104).

There are many political divisions and sub-divisions of the landscape for the purpose of contemporary governance, for example, regional, county and parish boundaries. These divisions have few physical representations in the landscape except for borough welcome signs which can be encountered along major road ways. However, political divisions do have an effect upon how the contemporary landscape is managed through the land management policies which are adopted. It was therefore appropriate to explore references which participants of this study made to political divisions in the landscape.

Jarrow and Wearmouth are both situated within Tyne and Wear, however, they are governed by separate metropolitan councils, those of South Tyneside and the City of Sunderland. Participants of the study, however, did not refer to council boundaries. Members of the World Heritage committee are aware of local jurisdiction as representatives from each council are actively working together to achieve joint World Heritage status for Wearmouth- Jarrow. However, no formal reference to this collaboration was made in any focus group session. Rather, participants reflect upon the fact that their towns are a part of the North East of England. Jim Wright, a member of the Jarrow History group, commented about a north-south divide crystallized in perceived political differences:

‘I know you still have this situation which we call the north and south divide and you’ve got a situation where people up here, I’ve got to be honest they don’t trust, conservatives have always been un-trusted over the years in this area [...] I wish that people would say, not that I want to be one of them, but I want to be the same as you and they can be the same as them. But we are knocking ourselves down all the time. I see entirely what Ken is on about in that we sometimes create our own divides.’

Younger participants of this study seemed very unaware of any political boundaries imposed upon the landscape for the purpose of governance. However, there were occasional references made towards Jarrow Town Hall located on Grange Road. For example, during a drawing elicitation exercise one pupil depicted the Town Hall which she had visited on a school trip (Figure 2.3).

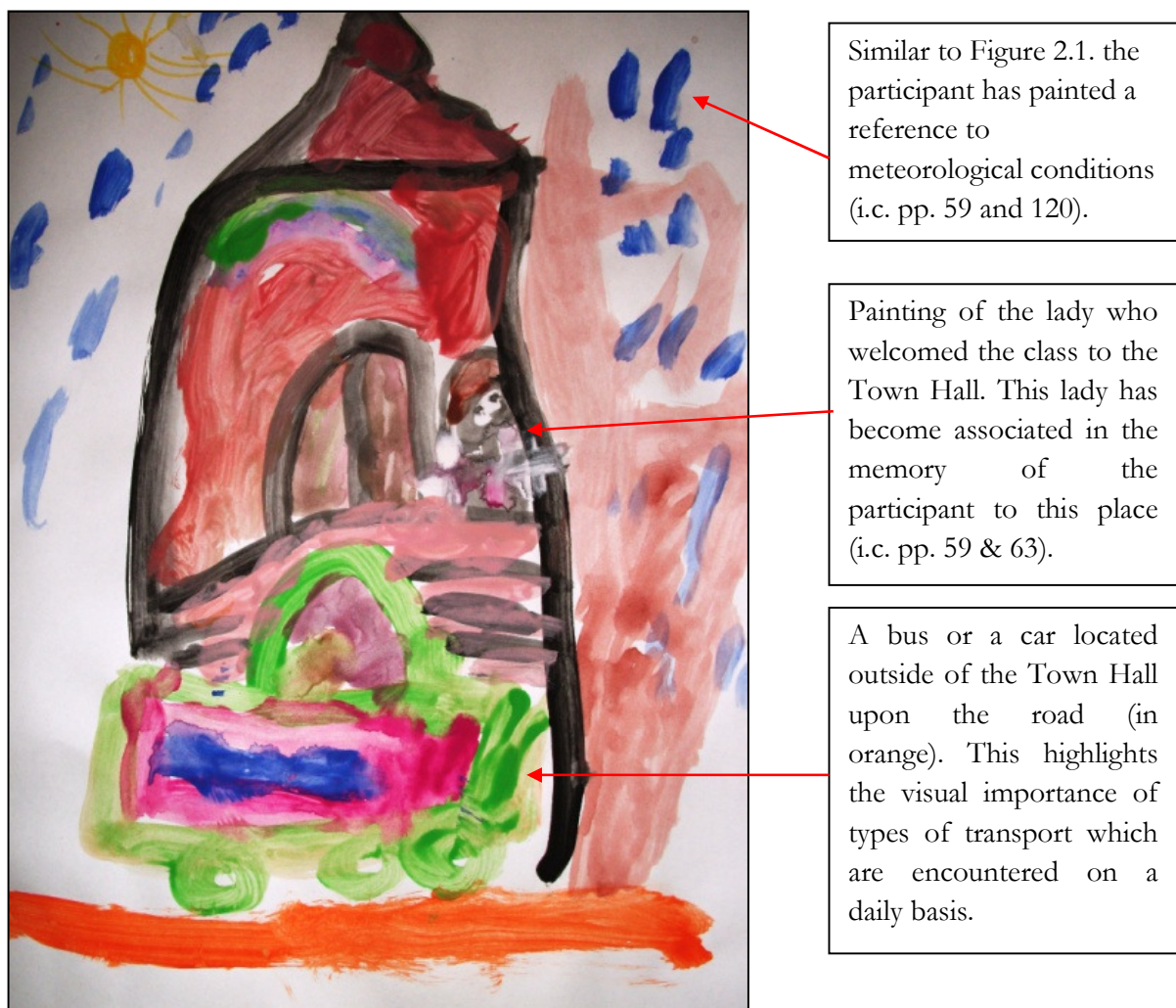


Figure 3.3. *A painting of Jarrow Town Hall*

Teenage participants of the study also seemed to be aware of the Town Hall's association with local governance and one focus group took photographs of the outside of the building. However, the teen focus groups did not make any references to the landscape in terms of

political boroughs. It is difficult to ascertain the diversity perceptions of contemporary council boundaries in the landscape as this distinction was rarely reflected upon. Participants may not have discussed these boundaries in this study; however, this is not indicative that they are unaware of them or that they are unimportant. Further in-depth research could be conducted to gain greater insights into contemporary perceptions of political boundaries through further inquiries.

3.3. The cognitive boundaries of the landscape:

Cognitive boundaries are human constructs which are formed by personal perceptions of intangible divisions between places and people. Participants of the study occasionally reflected upon territorial boundaries. Harvey (2000: 209 – 210) hypothesized that familiarity, experiences and historical connections provoke feelings of attachment to specific territories (c.f. Blunt *et al* 2006: 254). In addition, Harvey (2000: 210) argued that the boundaries of these territories are nebulous because they are based upon the subjective perceptions of the individual. Adult participants of the study frequently associated a sense of personal attachment to areas within, and beyond, the studies geographical parameters. This tentatively suggests the presence of personal cognitive boundaries which distinguish places of belonging from locations not identified with this emotion. For example, members of Jarrow's local history group commented:

Jim Wright: 'So all my life, all the time when I lived down south and I lived in practical luxury in a house with a bathroom and everything else we are looking at Milton Haven at the time and I just wanted to come back home and all my life I wanted to, and I did, and I got married up here...'

Jim Cuthbert: 'But that would have been the same if you had been anywhere else; it's your home town, you're tied to your home town.'

Jim Wright: 'I know but you miss your own people.'

Little Ireland a history documentary, produced by Wilkinson and Kelly (2009), reported upon the maintenance of Irish identity in contemporary Jarrow. Between 1860 and 1890, labourers migrated from Ireland to Jarrow in search of work. Several interviewees in the documentary commented upon how their ancestors had maintained and passed-on Irish traditions to subsequent generations (Wilkinson *et al* 2009). The maintenance of Irish identity by some inhabitants of Jarrow could reflect the strength of the relationships formed between place and people; so much so, that this aspect of identity has been passed down to today's generation in this documentary (*Ibid*). However, in the Contemporary and Competing Vistas study, very few references were made about Irish ancestry.

Participants from Wearmouth frequently referred to former boundaries produced by perceptions of local identity. *The Barbary Coast* was the name given to the area around St Peter's Church. The area was known to be a 'rough and tough place' without well-defined borders (Holmes 1991: 1 and Palmer [no date]: 2). Ian Nicholson, former church Warden of St Peter's, reflected upon his perceptions of the Barbary Coasters:

'I think the general attitude was that the inhabitants of the Barbary Coast were a rough and ready close knit community which didn't really identify with any of the other areas in Sunderland. They had this attitude of poverty but a kind of honourable poverty.' And 'It was something of interest [Rosemary Cramps excavations] but it seems that Sunderland didn't particularly show any great interest in it. Perhaps that was because partly it belonged to the Barbary Coast and they were very much a community which had tended to keep apart from the rest of Sunderland.'

The dynamic nature of cultural identities and cognitive boundaries was highlighted by Christopher Watson's comments about modifications to the landscape formerly known as the Barbary Coast:

'...the old areas from when I remember it, all the old slum areas were starting to be pulled down and there was just derelict and then they build the council estates around the church area and that got a bad name for itself and the area went downhill. The people who lived in the area use to call themselves the Barbary Coasters, probably because it was such a rough area. Obviously the Barbary Coast linked to the pirates off North Africa.'

The slum clearances were perceived by Christopher Watson to be the catalyst for the demise of the Barbary Coast, and suggested that this was because of the construction of council estates which would have encouraged new families to live in the area. The Barbary Coast example illustrates the nebulous and dynamic nature of social boundaries, which influence how landscapes are understood but are problematic to define in spatial terms.

Landscapes can also undergo cognitive segmentation due to distinctions made in regards of the perceived affluence of an area. For instance, Adam Gawne commented upon the residential areas in Wearmouth and Fulwell:

'I use to do Asda delivery so I've seen a lot of the area so I've got to see different sides [of Sunderland], it's weird how you go obviously towards Fulwell where you have bigger houses its more affluent and then you go into like these terraces.'

Gill Watson also commented:

'My father was determined to live by the sea front so we bought a house at South ... so we use to drive around that road near St Peter's and my mother was never

impressed by it and used to say that this wasn't a very nice area you have to drive through to get to where you live.'

As highlighted by Collier (1956: 884), perceptions of affluence are influenced by an individual's personal experiences and cultural backgrounds (i.c. literature review, p. 29). Therefore, a location which is perceived to be deprived to one individual can be viewed as an affluent area by another person.

Private and public domains were also perceived by participants to be separate bounded components within the landscape. Blunt *et al* (2006: 11) argued that people centre their lives around their own private home which was reflected in the many art pieces and photographs which focused upon the participants or relatives homes. Obviously, most participants of this study will not regard the same spatial location as their home. Therefore, distinctions made by participants between privacy of their home and public space will be person specific. Children frequently depicted their homes and also often included human figures in the compositions (Figure 3.4, p. 66) which could suggest that people and personal relationships can be associated to specific places. In subsequent discussions, children and teenagers referred to the places where they live, or had lived, and the houses of friends and members of family. Residential areas in Jarrow are geographically dissident from St Paul's and the core area of the OMTP project (i.c. Figure 3.6. p. 69). This could be a factor which limited the amount of visual representations of the monastic remains in elicitation tasks. Whereas St Peter's in Wearmouth is surrounded by structures which are used on a daily basis such as the University.



Figure 3.4. *Drawing which depicts two houses. In one of the windows the participant drew a self portrait. The participant has endeavoured to geographically locate the houses in relation to a sign post which points towards Morrison's Supermarket.*

However, focus upon the home, especially by younger participants, could reflect contemporary social behaviours. Restricted access to places, because of parental or guardian concerns, was identified by Korpela *et al* (2002: 390) as a factor which reduces the range of environments which children are exposed too. It can be speculated that the recurrent theme of depicting residential properties could reflect a child's restricted access to alternate public environments. The restriction of movement was reflected upon by Monica Turnbull:

'I lived across the way from Valley View school which was my school so everything was within walking distance and obviously playing out with your friends and but mainly just my Mam was quite protective she wouldn't let you out of the garden unless as I say and as I got older.'

Therefore cognitive boundaries can be constructed between private and public domains because of perceptions about perceived dangers. To some extent, this view is supported by some of the art work created by primary school children. Drawings often depicted places participants visit whilst being monitored by parents, guardians and older siblings (Figure 3.5).



Figure 3.5. *A pupil from Jarrow Cross Primary depicted a restaurant that they visit with their family. The participant has drawn herself and family members outside of a restaurant located beyond the studies geographical parameters.*

In contrast, Buchecker (2009: 279) argued that contemporary people are withdrawing from public places into the privacy of their own homes, a reflection of contemporary individualistic behaviours. Therefore, participants who depicted their place of residence could be indicating the

importance of their home as the location of most activities involved in their daily routine (i.c. Chapter 4, p. 91).

3.4. Accessibility of the landscape

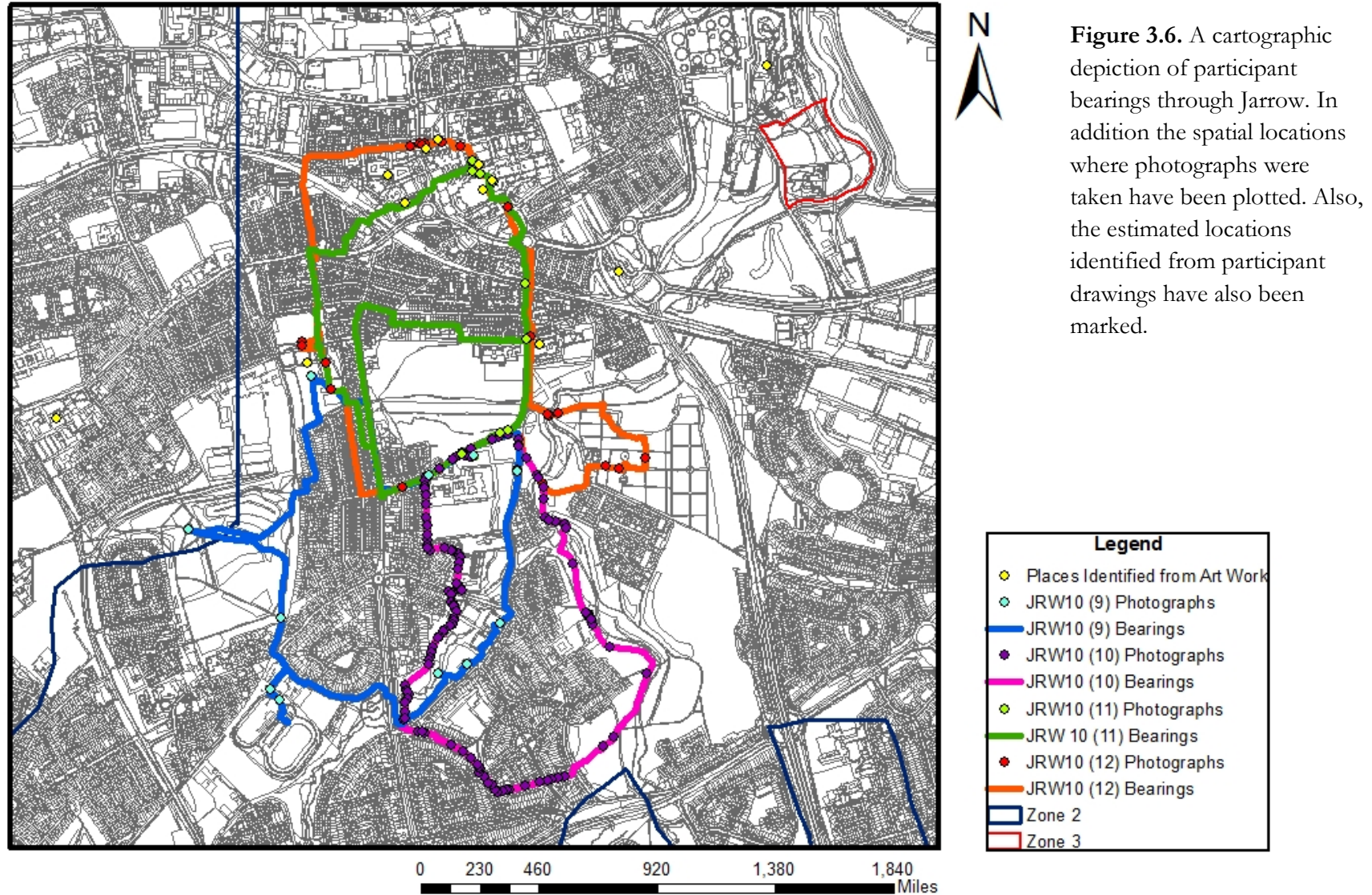
As suggested by Forman and Godron (1986), the permeability of the landscape acts as an important indicator of the ways that people perceive the boundaries of perceived units. Perceived units within the landscape become more accessible with the formation of road, walkways, tracks and boat routes. In addition, routes connect defined units, such as housing estates and industrial areas, and provide insights into the interconnectivity of the landscape. Responses from contemporary inhabitants from Wearmouth and Jarrow also identified the importance of travel networks. In addition, the openness and perceived accessibility of units of land was deemed as important especially by those who were directly connected to the churches of St Peter's and St Paul's.

Antrop (2004: 10) argued that transport infrastructures have increased the permeability of landscapes which was evident in participant feedback, for example in the photographic elicitation tasks. Participants traversed the landscape by conventional roads, pavements and tracks. However, some also deviated from established route ways and created their appropriation of the landscape. Shortcuts through backstreets and public rights of way were also often taken, particularly by participants who appeared to be more confident and familiar with the landscape. Participants who had confessed to have spent limited time in the study area had a tendency to traverse the landscape via major routes or trace the bearings of individuals who knew the area well. Perhaps a factor which should be considered in future investigations is the effect of familiarity upon a participant's bearings and perceptions of landscapes.

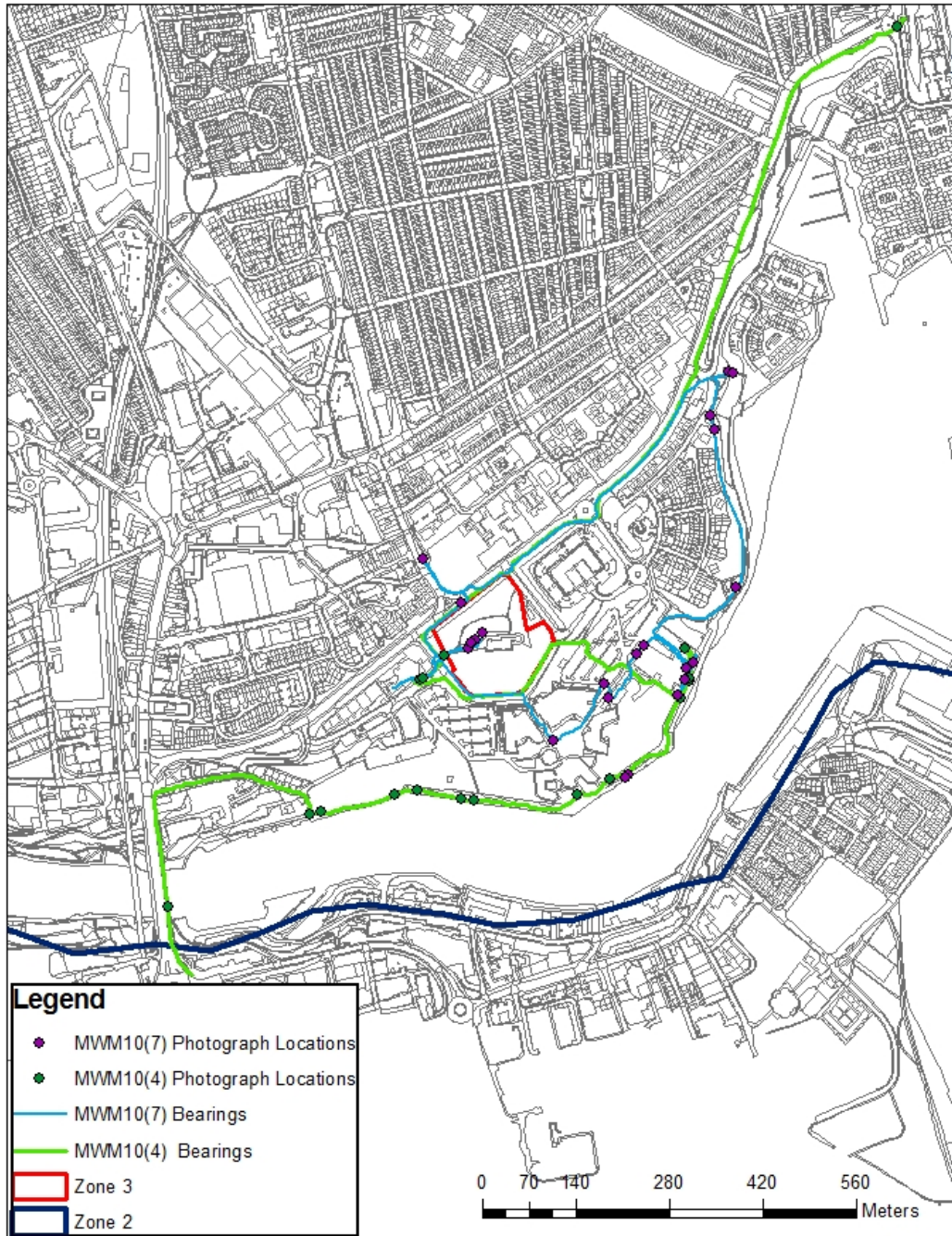
Figures 3.6. and 3.7. display the routes which participants took during elicitation exercises and the approximate locations where photographs were taken (pp. 70 – 71). In addition, Figure

3.6. also shows the approximate locations of places identified in participant art work. As illustrated by the overlay trajectories, often participants used the same route ways. However, in Figure 3.6. where all participants began the elicitation exercise at the new Jarrow School (which unfortunately is not depicted on the 2010 OS map), the repetition of bearings in the vicinity of the school is to be expected. Often elicitation groups traversed to the same locations by different routes; for example, the popular destinations of Valley View and Jarrow Park in Jarrow, and the Marina, National Glass Centre, St Peter's Church and Quayside in Wearmouth.

Participant bearings in Jarrow



Participant bearings in Wearmouth



©Crown Copyright/Database right 2010. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplies service. Zones 2 and 3 (Turner 2009). Participant bearings and photograph locations (Laidler 2010)

Figure 3.7. A cartographic depiction of participant bearings through Wearmouth. In addition the spatial locations where photographs were taken have been plotted.

The importance of route ways was also highlighted in the photographs taken by secondary students in Jarrow. Several students took photographs of the pavements which they were walking along in addition to fences, walls and hedges, which often guided their bearings through certain landscapes (i.c. Figure 3.8 and also pp. 76 - 77).



Figure 3.8. *Photograph taken by a year nine student of a pathway through Valley View Park in Jarrow.*

Participants within focus group sessions and interviews also commented upon the importance of transport systems. Adult participants from Jarrow made frequent references to the construction of the new Tyne Tunnel. The tunnel was seen as a major change in the contemporary landscape which would have effects upon not only visiting places but also attracting visitors to the area.

For example Jennifer George, a volunteer at St Paul's church, commented:

‘...the landscape is changing because of the new Tyne Tunnel ... what they have done has been great to the public and they've made access anyway on a bottom road, a high road, and they are working in between... So it is going to change a little bit road wise, you know, but I think if we can just step away from that and come down to St Pauls maybe and have a look and see what's on offer.’

The efficiency of transport systems can increase the permeability of the landscape and also affect an individual's exposure. For example, if a participant is travelling by train their experience and exposure to the landscape will be different from other modes of transports such as cars which move at a slower rate.

The permeability of Jarrow and Wearmouth's landscapes was also highlighted by participants who reflected encounters they have had with national and international people who visit the areas (i.c. Chapter 5, pp. 72 - 74). Many participants of the study reflected upon people that they had met in the local area. Reverend Dr Ian Stockton from St Peter's commented:

‘You never know who you might see, and so those people who work as visitor guides could sit there all afternoon and no one comes or they could have a professor from Japan and some people from the South of England.’

Jarrow and Wearmouth can be considered to have wide national and international connections because of the availability of modern networks of travel. The travel networks are dynamic and evolve to adhere to contemporary needs. The construction of the Tyne Tunnel bridged the gap between North and South Tyneside, which previously was crossed by time-tabled ferries, in addition to the A1 motorway and the Tyne Bridge (Wilkinson *et al* 2009). The increase of transport networks was seen by participants to have reduced the physical boundaries of distance which may previously

have inhibited pilgrims, visitors and scholars in the past. For example, Alan Perry the Warden at St Peter's commented:

'I suspect that they [people in Bede's time] would have gone by boat rather than walk in them days. Because we see it now with all of the roads and motorways and things which wouldn't have been there then at all so it must have been a bit of a trek [from Jarrow to Wearmouth]'

Children involved in the drawing elicitation task also frequently reflected upon methods of transport. Cars, roads, rail tracks and the Tyne Tunnel were recurrent features in art work (Figure 3.9, p. 75). They also made frequent references to places in the North East and abroad which they can visit because travel is accessible to the contemporary society. When asked to draw a landscape painting of Jarrow, many pupils drew places from outside of the local area such as a McDonald's located on Shields Road and a beach scene (Figure. 3.10, p. 76). This could be indicative of the influence of efficient networks of travel and the increased permeability of the landscape in the modern world. In addition, perhaps children's perceptions of town boundaries are not as strong as those expressed by adults who frequently referred to the local identities connected to specific local areas.



A plant located next to a Victorian style building, could reflect the participants experiences of viewing some of the structures which have recently been demolished in advance of the construction of Tyne Tunnel two.

The participant described the figure as a construction worker with a hard hat.

The entrance to the new Tyne Tunnel.

The fence as discussed in this chapter can restrict access to specific places but also guide people's bearings through the landscape (i.c. pp. 76 – 77).

Figure 3.9. *The Tyne tunnel by a third year pupil at Jarrow Cross.*



Figure 3.10. *Participants of the study often drew places outside of Jarrow. For example, McDonald's was a popular image which pupils drew, however the nearest branch is located outside of Jarrow towards South Shields. The depiction of a road leading up to the restaurant and a row of cars situated in front of the McDonalds is indicative of the effect that travel has had upon the accessibility of places in the modern landscape.*

The permeability and openness of the landscape was a major theme highlighted by members of the World Heritage committee and volunteers with a direct connection to the churches. In addition, analysis of photographs and comments recorded during photographic elicitation tasks suggest that the openness and ease of access to specific places do have an influence upon participants understanding and experiences of the landscape. The openness of the landscape

was not only perceived to be inhibited by the erection of fencing, structures previously imposed upon the landscape were also perceived to form barriers. Participants frequently referred to the immediate landscape around the churches and commented about the benefits of post-industrial clearances and the importance of open spaces. For example, Laura Sole a member of the World Heritage partnership commented:

‘And obviously at St Peter’s was in the middle of housing wasn’t it? Hallgarth Square was right next to the church and you’ve got the green space you know and although the church is in an area which obviously has been quite cluttered you’ve got the green space around the church which wasn’t there.’

However, views about how the boundaries of the churches should be defined were mixed. Alan Perry argued that the church should not be bounded by iron railings because ‘anyone coming into the church for the first time sees this great ‘keep out’ fence, it’s not welcoming.’ However, Professor Rosemary Cramp suggested that a boundary such as a hedge would ensure that people felt that they were entering a special place distinctive from the rest of the landscape.

The importance of open spaces and physical boundaries was also a theme identified in the photographic elicitation task. Participants frequently took photographs of walls, hedges and fences which prevent access to specific units of land. For example Figures 3.11 and 3.12 were taken by participants involved in the photographic elicitation task (i.c. p. 78). These are two examples from a wide range of photographs which show fencing and walls being utilized to prevent or restrict access to specific units of land, such as privately owned gardens.



Figure 3.11. *The closed gates at Jarrow Cross School, photograph taken by a Year 9 student.*



Figure 3.12. *Fences, walls and foliage separate the public from domestic private space and provide a boundary alongside the walkway which prevents deviation from the path. (Taken by a Jarrow School pupil)*

However, despite photographs of boundaries and paths, in subsequent focus group sessions participants did not reflect upon the openness of the landscape, but preferred to talk about their experiences and memories linked to the local area. This could demonstrate that participants have a passive relationship with physical boundaries in the landscape; however, it is more likely that these barriers are accepted as the norm and therefore were not reflected upon.

3.5. Interconnectivity of Jarrow and Wearmouth's landscapes

A central aim of the Contemporary and Competing Vistas project was to establish the extent to which participants discussed connections between the monastic lands of Wearmouth and Jarrow (i.c. p. 35). In addition, it was also considered to be important that alternate connections between these two sites and other geographical areas are discerned. This was perceived to be a significant aim of the study in order to clarify the extent to which cross-boundary relationships between Wearmouth and Jarrow have been maintained over time. The relationship between Wearmouth and Jarrow is implied by the writings of the Venerable Bede, who described the two sites as 'One Monastery in Two Places', which suggests that the two sites were united as a single establishment despite their geographical separateness. This connection is indicative of the inter-connectivity between the sites during the Anglo-Saxon period. Participants of the study who recognized the monastic importance of the local landscape occasionally reflected upon the physical divide between the two sites. Reverend Dr. Ian Stockton commented:

‘Obviously there is a bit of distance between Wearmouth and Jarrow and we have remarkable landscape between the two and that does need a bit of imagination today as to how these were two parts of the site, or two sites of one property’

Whereas other participants of the study reflected upon how their perceptions of the spatial separateness of the sites had changed since they engaged more with the sites. For example, Laura Sole a partner from the World Heritage Bid commented:

‘...I didn’t actually realise that they [Wearmouth and Jarrow] were two fairly separate places until I came up here to work here and I discovered that they both have very strong individual identities.’

And an anonymous member of the partnership also reflected upon their first exposure to the sites:

‘I first became aware of St Peter’s at Wearmouth when I was seven or ... at Fulwell Junior School we were just taught it at school about Benedict Biscop and Bede. Shamefully I didn’t know about Jarrow too much until I probably guess until I was about twenty, twenty one.’ (Anon.2)

However, members of the general public appeared to have greater awareness of the connection between the two sites from adverts about the World Heritage Bid and ‘Bede’s Way.’ Bede’s Way is a twelve mile public right of way which stretches between St Peter’s at Wearmouth and St Paul’s at Jarrow.

It can be discerned that perceptions about the link between Wearmouth and Jarrow are varied. Some participants barely reflected upon the churches of St Peter’s and St Paul’s (for example see transcript MWM10(1) in Appendix 5). This suggests that for some, the churches themselves are little known, as is the connection between the two sites. However, for others, such as members of the World Heritage Bid Partnership and volunteers at the two sites, there is a contemporary perceived link between Wearmouth and Jarrow.

3.6. Discussion

To a limited extent, this chapter reaffirms Brück *et al*’s (1992: 2) hypothesis (i.c. p.56). Participants of this study described Wearmouth and Jarrow by differentiating between natural and man-made elements of the landscape. In addition, participants distinguished one place from

another in terms of personal, or shared, cognitions which they associate to a specific place. As demonstrated in this chapter, common trends have emerged which suggests that there are similarities in the ways that participants categorizes and experience the contemporary landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow. For example, participants in both Jarrow and Wearmouth identified the ways that local landscapes are divided in physical terms; for example, by fences, walls and hedges, in addition to cognitive divisions created by perceptions of local identity and interpretations of public and private space. The importance of cognitive processes in the construction and interpretation of boundaries highlights the limited validity which landscape characterization studies have in gaining insights of *insider* perceptions of landscapes. Perceptions of both tangible and intangible boundaries in the landscape are not static, because they are influenced by the individual's interactions and understanding of the landscape. Perceptions are also affected by individual differences, cultural backgrounds and personal experiences; themes which are explored further in Chapter 5 (c.f. Barth 1969: 15, Cresswell 1996: 21, Doukellis *et al* 2004: xiii, Harvey 2000: 208 and Power *et al* 1999: 3.). It can be speculated that the ways which people define the landscapes are as diverse as the people who encounter them.

Chapter 4

Contemporary perceptions of land-use in Wearmouth and Jarrow

4.1. Introduction

Snap-shots into physical and cognitive engagements with landscapes can be discerned from investigations into both past and present forms of land-use (c.f. Chapman 2003: 7, Fairclough 2008: 56, Hodder *et al* 2003: 118 and Naveh 2001: 269). Contemporary academics such as Fairclough (2008: 62) argue that past and present forms of land-use has had an active and profound influence upon how people perceive the world (c.f. Antrop 1998: 55, Tilley 1993: 24 Parker-Pearson *et al* 2005: 4, Preucel 2007: 219, Smith *et al* 2009b: 16). This is because land-use schemes leave both physical and cognitive residues; for example, as cultural memories and tangible heritages (*Ibid* c.f. also. Bennett 2009). The characterization of landscapes based upon past and present forms of land-use has become a focal point in contemporary research as reflected upon in Chapter 3 (i.c. p. 56). This is evident in Historical Landscape Characterization (HLC) projects, which endeavour to characterize the British landscapes based upon past and present forms of land-use (c.f. Fairclough 2008). However, Fairclough (2008: 57 - 8) recommends that there should be greater recognition of intangible perceptions of landscapes, with emphasis placed upon people's memories, experiences and interpretations of space (c.f. Turner *et al* 2009).

This chapter will consider participant references made to social, economic, religious, ecological and historical forms of land-use. Figures 4.1. and 4.2. (pp 83 - 84) provide a cartographic overview of the types of land-use identified by participants; these themes are elaborated upon throughout the chapter. It is hoped that in future studies spatial data used in this section will be contrasted with land-use polygons developed in the OMTP landscape-survey in order to discern alternative insights.

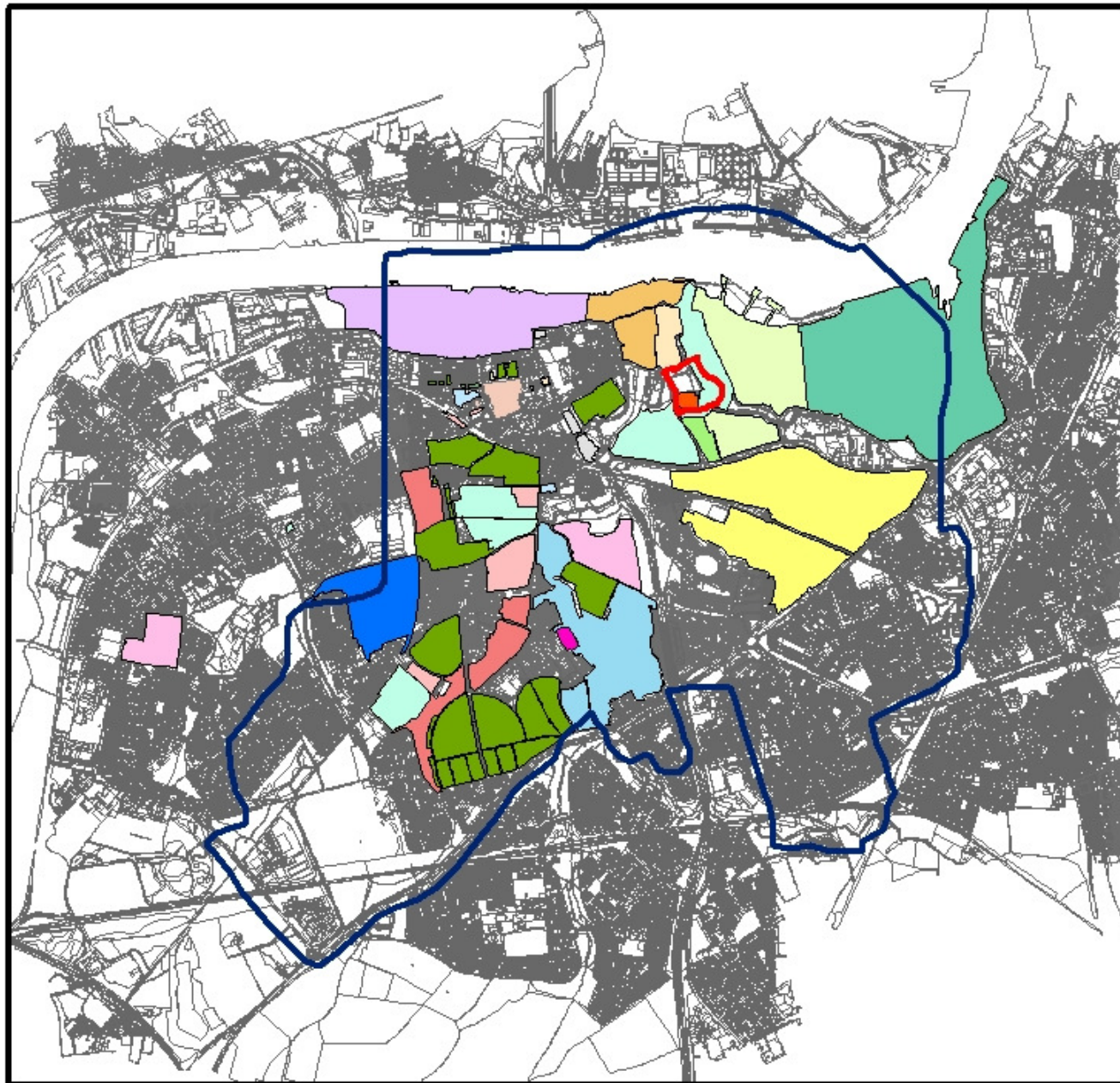


Figure 4.1. Perceptions of land-use in Wearmouth

- Legend**
- █ Zone 2
 - █ Zone 3
 - █ Commercial
 - █ Commercial, Heritage, Nostalgia
 - █ Commercial, Heritage, Nostalgia, Social
 - █ Commercial, Social, Nostalgia
 - █ Educational, Social
 - █ Educational, Social, Leisure
 - █ Industrial
 - █ Industrial, Heritage, Nostalgia
 - █ Livestock Farm
 - █ Memorial, Nostalgia, Heritage
 - █ Public Service
 - █ Public Service, Nostalgia, Heritage
 - █ Social, Leisure
 - █ Social, Leisure, Commercial
 - █ Social, Leisure, Ecological
 - █ Social, Leisure, Heritage
 - █ Social, Leisure, Nostalgia
 - █ Transport
 - █ Transport, Social
 - █ Religious, Social, Educational
 - █ Religious, Social, Educational, Heritage, Nostalgia
 - █ Residential, Social

0 230 460 920 1,380 1,840 Miles

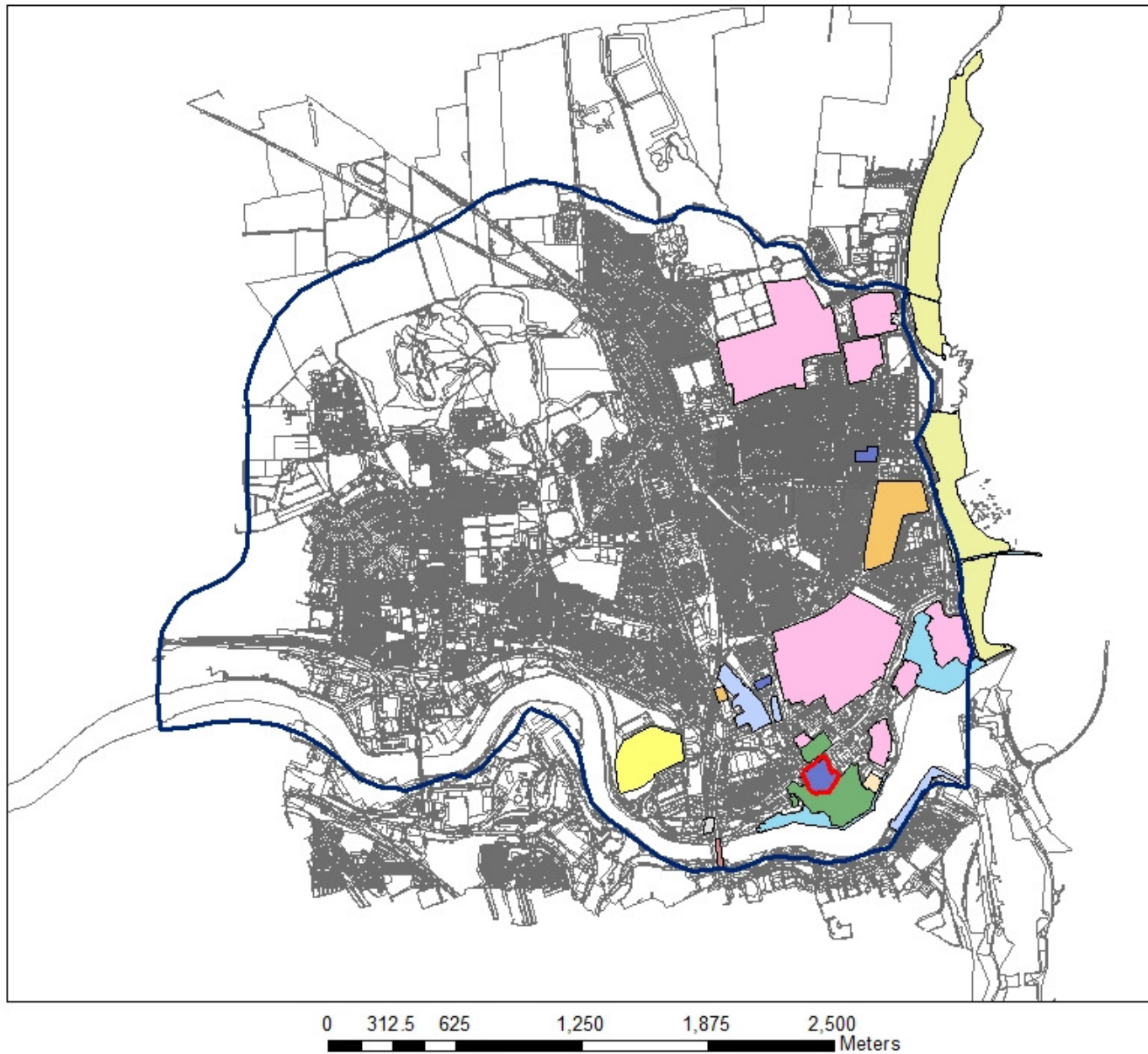


Figure 4.2. Perceptions of land-use in Wearmouth

Legend

- Zone 2
- Zone 3
- Industrial
- Transport
- Commercial
- Residential
- Leisure, Social
- Leisure, Social, Heritage, Nostalgia
- Educational, Social, Heritage
- Educational, Social
- Religious, Social, Heritage
- Leisure, Social, Heritage, Nostalgia
- Heritage, Nostalgia, Transport

4.2. Perceived Uses of the Landscape of Wearmouth and Jarrow.

Socialization and recreation were the most frequent forms of land-use discussed by participants of this study. A diverse range of recreational activities such as cycling, walking, gardening, sailing and annual community events were associated by participants to specific places in the landscape. For example, Liam Bell commented:

‘The sea front is really good for jogging and all of that stuff with the football team; and it’s like a really nice place to just have a jog, and a bit of banter with your mates and all of that. It’s really nice.’

As illustrated in the above quote, outdoor activities facilitate direct engagement between participants and landscapes. Participant perceived landscapes to be interactive in both physical and cognitive terms. For example, teenage participants also discussed how they engage with landscapes through games inspired from physical features in the landscape, such as unusual trees and arches beneath bridges (i.c. Chapter 5 pp.124 - 125). Occasionally, adult participants reflected upon nostalgic memories of how they used the landscape as children and teenagers. Similar to contemporary teens albeit different locations, natural and man-made features, such as; Jarrow Slake and the railway line were incorporated into games for entertainment. Occasionally adult participants reflected upon nostalgic memories of how they used the landscape as children and teenagers for example, members of the Jarrow History focus group recalled games they played at Jarrow Slake:

Jim Cuthbert: ‘We use to have these big long, you know the ends where square like that probably about ten to twelve inches square in big long booms which we use to play on when we were kids and they’d go like that (demonstrates a boom tipping) when you put your feet on them.’

Ken Findlay: ‘... it wouldn’t be allowed these days but it was a playground for us.’

Jim Cuthbert: ‘Oh yeah it was great fun!’

(Edited conversation- full version available in Appendix 5)

Landscapes are therefore interactive places which provide the location for specific activities and also the stimuli for the intervention of imaginative forms of land-use. Research studies which aim to understand specific ways in which landscapes are used would not be able to ascertain detailed insights into home-grown activities such as those above without direct interaction with local people.

The landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow were frequently discussed as a stage upon which people experience, interact and encounter other people and living creatures. It was common in discussions about the landscapes for participants to reflect upon family members, friends, strangers and animals which they associate with a specific place. Often, these individuals were talked about in the context of personal experiences, social and recreational activities the participants associated the person with. For example, during the photographic elicitation when we passed the allotments, one participant discussed how his uncle worked on the allotments and other participants commented upon specific streets where friends live, or a place that they visit with family members. Landscapes not only act as a backdrop to social gatherings and encounters, but are also integral elements of the participant’s memories and experiences. Teenage participants involved in the photographic elicitation exercise took photographs of various places they use to socialise and meet friends (Figure 4.3, p. 87). For example, the bandstand located at Jarrow Park was described as a ‘good meeting place,’ and a ‘good place to sit when it is raining, and watching other people get wet.’ In addition, during elicitation exercises, parks and open grass land were the frequent destinations of teenager groups. This phenomenon emulates Korpela *et al’s* (2002) study which focused upon the place preferences of

Finnish teenagers. Korpela *et al* (2002: 396) identified that participants preferred places which are outside of parental and guardian supervision where they could engage in peer-orientated activities.



Figure 4.3. *Taken by a year nine student. During focus group discussions participants discussed how the band stand is a local meeting place where they meet up with their friends.*

As discussed in Chapter 3 (p. 72 - 73), volunteers at St Peter's and St Paul's Churches frequently reflected upon the diverse range of encounters they had had with tourists and pilgrims. For example, Jimmy Guy the verger at St Paul's Church discussed some of the encounters he had had while working at the church:

'We had a family who flew in from Vancouver with their Great Grandmother, Grandmother, Mother and two little girls, to be baptised. They flew up from

Heathrow to Newcastle on the Saturday, came here Sunday morning to get baptised, because the Great Grandmother had been baptised here, the grandmother had been and the mother had been baptised here and they wanted the little girls baptised.'

At St Peter's, I was invited by Alan Perry to view two books; one contained signatures of dignitaries and the other contained an assortment of national and international post cards and letters. Most of the written correspondences were from pilgrims and tourists thanking the volunteers and guides at the church. The signatures and correspondences reiterated the diversity of national and international encounters which occur and are associated with the monastic remains at St Peter's and St Paul's. Landscapes are therefore hosts to a diverse range of social encounters and personal relationships which become associated and bound in with specific places, although this form of land-use could be overlooked in its importance because socialization does not require any specific tangible features, nor is it limited to well-defined spatial locations.

Involvement in a specific recreational or social activity is not always necessary for a place to be associated with a certain type of land-use. Observation of others using the landscape can influence people's perceptions. This was demonstrated during a photographic elicitation walk where teen participants reflected upon the recreational activities of elderly people at Valley View Park (Figure 4.4, p. 89). Verity Kalinowski from Sunderland University also commented upon the activities of others: 'You get a lot of fishermen down by the university.' Personal observations of others cohabitation of the landscape and forms of land-use an individual is not personally connected to (for example industry) can enhance people's experiences and perceptions of a place.



Figure 4.4. *The green at Valley View Park was associated by local teens as the location where elderly people to play croquet.*

Social activities were sometimes associated with specific buildings, such as places to learn, work, eat, shop and live. Pryor (2010: 634) argues that since the 1930s, people have had more opportunities for leisure time due to workers getting paid holiday leave therefore implying that time for hobbies has not always been available. To some extent this trend has impacted how the landscape is used by contemporary people. Shaw (2001: 160 - 1) argues that increased wealth, population and leisure time has resulted in the construction of leisure facilities in urban environments. This view is supported by contemporary structures in Jarrow and Wearmouth. Jarrow contains a community leisure centre where a range of activities such as martial arts and

local team sports take place. Wearmouth, with its close connections to the harbour, has its own marina and outdoor pursuits centre.

Some hobbies mentioned by participants did not involve any direct interaction with the landscape, such as participation in craft workshops, studying, playing computer games and entering quizzes in the local paper. However, despite the apparent physical disconnection from the landscape during these activities, one participant, Andrew Leadbitter, reflected upon the importance of vistas viewed from University windows:

‘I spend most of my university life just being in the library and around the halls and its nice just looking out the window at the view after you’ve been on the computer for hours on end, it’s just a breath of fresh air really.’

The aesthetics of vistas can therefore be engaged with during activities which appear to be disengaged from the outside world. The Watson family also discussed vistas from a car window when travelling on the A183 through Wearmouth to South Shields.

Rebekah Watson: ‘It’s quicker going up the A19, but I use to just drive that way because it’s pretty.’ [...]

Gill Watson: ‘I remember on the way back from the quiz one night and saw it [the ferry] with the lights on. And at Christmas it is nice driving along there because everyone has lights in their trees and reindeer on the green at Whitburn.’

(Edited conversation- full version available in appendix)

The aesthetic appeal of landscapes can be seen to draw participants’ attention from the activities they are involved in such as work, study and driving. Therefore apparently dislocated enclosed contexts, such as offices, libraries and cars still provide the means for people to visually engage with landscapes.

Routines are an essential element of our daily lives. Edmonds (1999: 8) argues that prehistoric daily routines were shaped by the availability of resources, risk, seasonal practices, cognitive attitudes, and the practical constraints of topography. Certainly, the means to which modern people conform to this hypothesis are different due to the development of international economies, technology and communication networks. However, despite the advantages of the modern world, daily routines are still affected by things such as seasonality; for example, cleaning frost and snow from cars in the winter. During a photographic elicitation exercise, teenage participants commented upon a hill which they traverse daily to get to and from school. One student reflected upon how in the winter they also use the hill for sledging. This suggests that even in the modern world, the seasons do affect not only the way in which the landscape is used, but also the way it is experienced and memorialized in retrospect of different forms of engagement (i.c. Chapter 5). Activities involved in daily routine, such as school, work and shopping, often have participants engage indirectly with the landscape; however, some occupations involve greater direct contact with the landscape (c.f. Pryor 2010: 675). For example, Frank Unwin, the grounds man of Jarrow, commented upon how the landscape had changed since he had lived in the area:

‘In the time that I’ve been here, in my opinion it has improved. It is tidier, cleaner works better, less dangerous litter, much improved to be honest. The trees are growing so it looks much greener than when I first arrived, they are much bigger.’

Another frequent use of the landscape for daily activities that was discussed is the home. Allison (1999: 1) argues that the home is a physical shield between private activities and public spheres. This was a trait which was particularly demonstrated by younger participants of the study. When asked about the activities which they were involved in, many commented about playing with computer games, a theme which was repeated in drawing elicitation exercises, as shops selling computer games were frequently depicted by participants. In addition, many participants of

elicitation exercises commented about their dwellings and often photographed residential areas, commenting about how these were important places which they used in the landscape (Figure 4.5 and 4.6, pp. 92 - 93). In contrast, other pupils commented upon activities which did take place in public space, for example, swimming at a local pool and playing in the parks. Adult participants of the study frequently referred to activities which take place in both the domestic and public environment. Places also become associated with daily activities. For example, Monica Turnbull commented upon stopping at the local supermarket on the way home because it was conveniently situated in relation to her daily routine of working at the school then travelling to South Shields. For some, going to local churches was also a part of their daily, weekly, monthly or annual routines, as was participation in events; volunteering and worship.



Figure 4.5. Residential area near Primrose in Monkton taken by year nine student in the photographic elicitation exercise.



Figure 4.6 . *Painting of a street in Jarrow by a year 4 student. The van in the foreground is the postman.*

The most common daily activity mentioned by participants of the study was commuting to school, shops and work. Travel is an important use of the landscape associated with road, track and path networks. In addition, physical structures such as the Metro rail line and Bus stations were referred upon as important places which are used to move within, and beyond, the studies geographical parameters. The importance of travel was reflected in children's drawings of cars, bus stops and the Metro Station, all of which are important aspects of their daily commute to and from school (Figure 4.7 and 4.8, p.94).



Figure 4.7. *Depiction of a participant at a bus shelter on the way to visit a relative.*



Figure 4.8. *The Metro line, which is used by some students to commute daily to and from school, photograph taken during a photographic elicitation exercise.*

Teenagers involved in the photographic elicitation exercise also identified travel infrastructure as important parts of their landscape. A student from year ten discussed how he lived outside of Jarrow and used the Metro rail network to get to get to and from school (Figure 4.8, p. 94) (i.c. Chapter 3, pp. 73 - 75).

The churches of St Peter's and St Paul's were referred to as the location where worship, baptisms, funerals and weddings take place. These activities also take place at a host of other churches located within the study zone, such as St. Andrew's at Roker. Jimmy Guy, vergger of St Paul's commented; 'We have had twenty odd weddings in a year here and tons of baptisms.' It was a common trait amongst those who reflected upon religious activities which take place in the local landscape to also refer to personal memories and experiences they have had taking part in these events (i.c. Section 5.2, p. 109). However, Monica Turnbull also mentioned other non-religious events which take place at her local church, such as Sunday Schools and 'cream tea' coffee mornings. Churches in Wearmouth and Jarrow are involved in a host of community-orientated activities with local groups and schools. Dr. Revd. Ian Stockton recollected a recent school trip where the children were taught to sing Gregorian Chants at St Peter's Church. In addition, St Peter's monastery has its own café, *Bede's Bakehouse*, which is used as a meeting place. St Paul's also has its own small shop and is associated with the Heritage centre Bede's World which has its own café located inside Jarrow Hall.

The dynamic nature of these religious places was highlighted by Monica Turnbull's concerns that the importance of these sites could be in jeopardy because of a decrease in younger parishioners:

'...unfortunately religion is sort of deteriorating and it hasn't really got, like I know at our church there's a lot of elderly parishioners and when they unfortunately go then there's not that many people coming up...'

This highlights the fact that the ways that places are used is not static and can be affected by social variances between generational groups, for example, changes in perceptions of spirituality and religion can affect the way landscapes are perceived and used.

The landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow are also used for local events and activities, many of which are associated with specific places in the landscape. Participants of the study sometimes referred to the annual medieval fair which takes place at Bede's World. Rebekah Watson an infrequent visitor to Jarrow, reflected upon her experience at the fair:

'I remember going to Jarrow once, and I can't remember what exactly it was but there was this big fair or something; I think that there were people dressed up in Medieval clothes...'

People also commented upon the pilgrimages between St Peter's and St Paul's, which can be undertaken independently or twice annually in an organised pilgrimage group. Ian Stockton from St Peter's recounted:

'I have been a part of the pilgrimage annual walk from its outsets and I am used to traversing the landscape on Bede's way, including this year again for Christian aid. We have sometimes occasional processions, including with children, around the grounds of St Peter's, and various social activities which take place close to the grounds.'

The excavations conducted by Professor Rosemary Cramp were also sometimes referred to by participants as an event that had happened within the landscapes (i.c. Chapter 5, pp. 109 - 110). These excavations were seen by participants as not only a method of gaining insights about the past, but also as an event of great community interest. For example, Ian Nicholson commented:

‘My grandfather [...] was able to regale me the stories of the archaeological dig that took place here [Monkwearmouth] under the Professor Cramp [...] Apparently the men from Jail Thompson shipyard at lunch time would come out with their bait and their enamel tea cans and sit and watch what was going on and ask questions. It is quite amazing really, there was an awful lot of interest in what was happening.’

Although these events are annual or, in the case of excavations, sporadic, these events have helped to shape participant’s memories and perceptions of the local landscape (see Chapter 5).

Past and present planning legislation has implicated controlled development of modern townscapes. Participants of this study frequently reflected upon changes in the landscape, such as regeneration schemes and demolitions. For example, Hallgarth Square, a series of Victorian residential properties formerly located within the contemporary boundary of St Peter’s monastery, were demolished in c.1950. As Gazin-Schwartz (2008: 31) argues, the expulsion of residents from landscapes and demolition of properties can result in the loss of identity and facilitate alternate land-use. The affects of relocating Jarrow’s town centre was identified by Prof. Rosemary Cramp as influencing local peoples attachment to the monastic remains.

‘Jarrow was more difficult (than Wearmouth) because the community had been cleared away from Jarrow. Jarrow was a small village that was to the east of [what is now] Jarrow, had gone. The Verger who lived in the ruins and the cottage there had gone and so the town and the settlement had moved away.’

Participants of the study occasionally reflected upon political influences upon contemporary uses of the landscape. For example, the Tyne Car Terminal was also referred to by participants as different things. Some participants referred to the car terminal as *Nissan’s* or *Thatcher’s* car park. Frank Unwin explained that the link existed because of the Tory influence in the development of Jarrow’s mud flats into the car terminal. This suggests that people sometimes

link contemporary landscape with the political leaders who influenced the way that it is used today. The Tyne Car Terminal was the largest single development undertaken at the port (Hunter Oak Consultants 1999: 19). It was constructed for economic purposes to aid the export of cars from Nissan's factory in Washington (*Ibid*).

Younger participants often mentioned local public services such as hospitals and police stations. Health care was not a theme discussed by older participants, however, both Jarrow and Wearmouth have their own healthcare facilities and NHS care homes. One student from Jarrow Cross depicted the hospital because he had recently visited it and it had obviously made an impression upon him as that is what he thought of when asked to draw something in the local landscape (Figure 4.9, p. 99). In addition to the hospital, the children often mentioned the police station which is situated opposite Jarrow Cross Primary school. They also talked about the police cars and the flashing lights, whereas no adult participants commented upon the police station (Figure 4.10, p. 99).



Figure 4.9. *A primary school pupils painting of the hospital at Monkton (near Jarrow) with two ambulances.*



Figure 4.10. One of many drawings of the police station situated opposite the school.

Economic usages of the landscape have had a dramatic influence upon the contemporary landscape of Wearmouth and Jarrow. Allen (1999: 162) argues that the most important influence upon the contemporary British landscape was the production of food and extraction of natural resources. Participants of the study frequently referred to local past and present economic uses of the landscape. These references were often made in terms of change and continuity, whereas younger participants of the study frequently referred to contemporary commercial enterprises rather than the landscape's industrial past.

Marshall (2001: 5) argues that advancements in travel networks acted as a catalyst for a change in land use because historic waterfronts were no longer necessary for economic logistics. To some extent, this is reflected within the regeneration scheme conducted along the river Wear which has resulted in the construction of the National Glass Centre and St Peter's University Campus. However, at Jarrow, the importance of the river for economic enterprises is reflected within the success of the Port of Tyne. The Port of Tyne is a major stakeholder of the landscape of Jarrow. It was established under an Act of Parliament as a Trust (Hunter Oak Consultants 1999: 15). They own over six hundred acres of land which is leased to commercial enterprises (Port of Tyne). Advertised as 'the northern gateway to Europe,' the port is an important centre of logistics equipped for the storage and distribution of commercial goods via sea, road and trains (*Ibid*). The port handles a range of commercial goods such as grain, scrap steel, forest products, aluminium hydrate and cars. In addition, the Port of Tyne has its own International Passenger Terminal based in North Shields which accommodates ferries for international travel. The Port of Tyne was often mentioned by participants of the study. Many reflected upon the influence which expansion of the Port has had upon the landscape within their own lifetime. For example, Jim Wright from Jarrow's local history group commented:

‘We always use to have a laugh about the Port of Tyne and we use to say that it was the Port of Jarrow which it probably was because part of it goes from the Slake right from out to the Tyne dock and further on,’

The Port was not mentioned by children or teenage participants of the study, this may reflect the fact that the contemporary town of Jarrow is located some distance away from the port.

Reflections upon former industries were a common theme encountered in feedback from participants from both Jarrow and Wearmouth. Frank Unwin discussed his fascination in the former chemical industry in Jarrow and how it had influenced the names of local public houses:

‘I was fascinated by the pub names which were like ‘Alkali’, they didn’t have one called the Acid! But if you drive through you find pubs with chemical names as you go.’

Bill Bravier, Reverend at St Paul’s, commented upon former land-use in Jarrow:

‘I mean a lot has changed, I remember when I was five or six with the Shell oil depot. which covered all of what is now the farm at Bede’s World and everything so the impression you got from Church bank was that this thing was nestled right in the midst of the local industry. And of course at that time as well Jarrow Slake was still mudflats; it wasn’t a Nissan Car park.’

Change of land-use was commonly reflected by participants in Wearmouth. Christopher Watson reflected upon his memories of the Quayside:

‘...the riverside area has changed too obviously, when I was young there were all of the shipyards and ship repair yards and the colliery. All of that has gone now there is the glass centre and the university and sixth form college.’

And Tom Gibbons, reverend at St Peter's and member of the World Heritage Bid, reflected upon his concerns about the loss of identity:

'From some sort of view I think that there is a kind of bereavement having lost one of the things which made the River Wear famous, the industry of ship building. I know that Bede also makes the River Wear famous and it's a huge [River?], I wonder sometimes if we trying to cleanse the place of industry and I think that you can have history alongside modern day features.'

Commercialization and globalization encouraged by increased tourism and communications are argued by some academics to have reduced the diversity of human behaviours and preferences (c.f. Chapman 2003: 1 - 2). This is illustrated by the establishment of shop chains which sell the same products which can be encountered throughout the world (*Ibid*). Preucell *et al* (2007: 223) argue that the importance of physical proximity for interconnectedness between peoples has been reduced because of advances in transport and communication technologies. Inevitably this means that participants from Jarrow and Wearmouth are exposed to commercial endeavours and behavioural influences (i.e. in the media) external from the geographical parameters of the study. A key theme highlighted in the elicitation tasks was the importance of high street shops (Figures.4.11 and 4.12, pp. 103 - 104). Both children and teenage participants reflected upon their connections with Jarrow's Viking Shopping Centre retail as a contrast to the ecclesiastical remain and discussed their favourite shops and the things they purchase and retail parks. Adult participants of the study in Wearmouth also discussed the importance of local shops as a leisure pursuit which could reflect *zeitgeist* or the 'spirit of the times' (c.f. Bentley 1999: 11). This could be a too sweeping statement though as there was a diversity of opinions about how the landscape should be used. For example, Christopher Watson from Wearmouth commented about changes made at Southwick in Wearmouth:

‘Personally I think that they should demolish all of the houses where they have got the industrial estate at the Wheatsheaf Area, all of those empty shops, and restore the old village because there use[d] to be an old village green there with a cross on it as a marker cross, and it’s all been built on,’

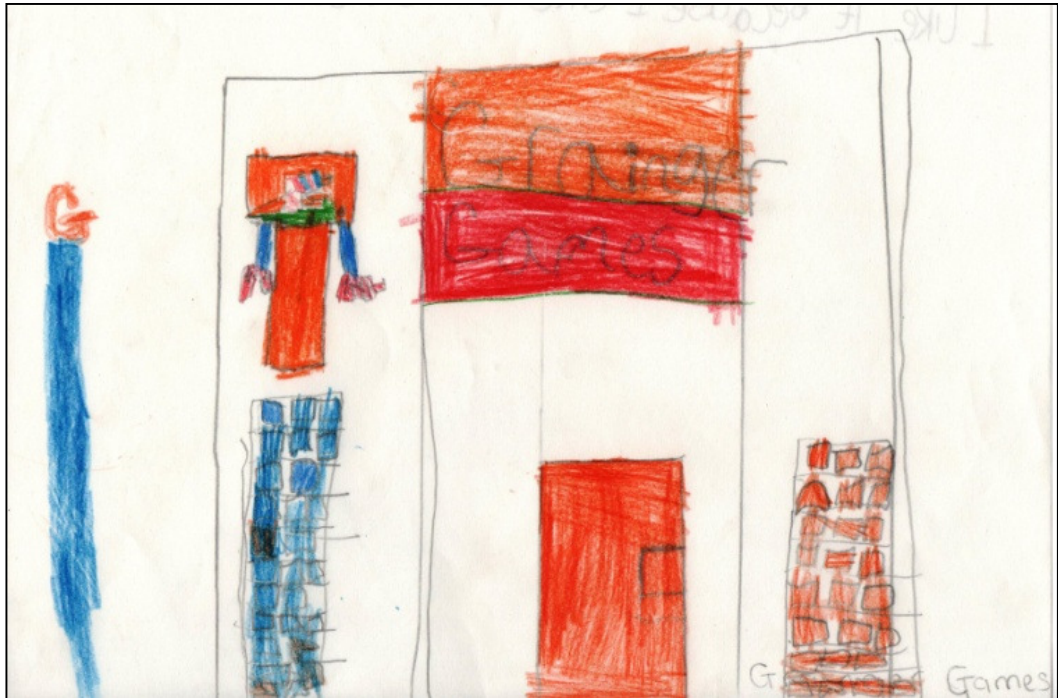


Figure 4.11. Pencil drawing of Grainger Games a computer shop located at the Viking Shopping Centre in Jarrow.



Figure 4.12. *Picture taken by a year 10 student of the sign for the Viking Shopping Centre.*

Natural habitats and ecological uses of the landscape were identified by Ling (2007) as an important form of land-use. This view was supported in this study by participants' reflections upon 'natural' areas of landscape and the enjoyment they gain from them.

Frank Unwin commented:

'I do like the emphasis very much on the conservation and the growing of trees and the of land and this moment in time or this year, the council or whoever is in charge of designing the landscapes around here have mown just past, they've let the grass grow so it's been able to seed. For me as a dog walker and for someone who observes a lot it's as good looking this year as I've remembered it in fourteen years of landscape and the landscaping of the walk ways is perfect at the moment.'

Participants frequently commented upon changes made to land which is used as a natural habitat for wildlife. For example, Jim Cuthbert commented:

‘One of the biggest changes there has probably ever been in thousands of years, perhaps even hundreds of thousands of years, was the filling in of the Jarrow Slake. [...] When it was getting to be dusk, on a night time, you could see thousands of seagulls in great big trails going back to Jarrow Slake, because with the tide coming in twice a day and the shallow water and all the worms and feeding for the seagulls. They use to be thousands!’

The contemporary landscape of Wearmouth and Jarrow is perceived by some to be visual reminders of local history, genealogy and identity. Christopher Watson, for instance, reflected upon his family’s connection to Wearmouth:

‘So all of my family come from there, well most of my family anyway. The Church [St Peter’s] has been important in my family for a hundred years at least because that is how far the records go back because they were all burned in the 1790 something, the old abbey went up in flames.’

When participants were asked how the landscape had changed since their first encounter with it, they talked about the landscape being a mixed palimpsest of change and continuity in terms of how the land is used. For example, participants involved in the World Heritage Bid partnership commented:

Julie Heathcote: ‘It’s quite fitting how the landscape has changed around there, this is more about my first encounter, it kind of all still sort of fits in, there is like the glass, the learning at the university.’

Pearl Saddington: ‘I think that the landscape has changed, how people change, but the monastery at St Paul’s, the monastery it’s just stayed the same, do you know what I mean?’

Bill Bravier: ‘Yeah, it’s a constant.’

For pupils at the local secondary school, changes in land-use are prevalent, as their old school, constructed in the early twentieth century, was in the process of being demolished, as a new one had been constructed in the shadow of the old school (Figure 4.13).



Figure 4.13. *The demolition of the old school, photograph taken in the car park for the new school.*

When asked about the demolition of the former school, some participants believed that the older parts of the building should have been kept and turned into a sixth form. One participant referred to how the destruction of the old school was sad because of the memories which they associated with it.

4.3. Discussion

Hodder *et al* (2003: 118) argued that people construct individual biographies with places, influenced by variations with the ways in which the landscape is engaged. This hypothesis is supported by feedback collected in this study. Participants, who have personal interests focused in specific activities such as recreational hobbies, learning or socialization, often envision the landscape in terms of these pursuits. However, as this chapter indicates, participants of the study had a great awareness of contemporary and past forms of land-use to which they are not directly connected. For example, University students from different parts of the country identified the importance of the Shipyard industry alongside the Quayside in Sunderland, in addition to school children reflecting upon games of croquet played at Valley View Park by elderly residents. Direct observations in addition to accumulated knowledge of past and present land-use can be discerned to have an influence upon contemporary perceptions of the lived in landscape. Perceptions of land-use are frequently linked to personal memories, experiences and emotions which are discussed in the next chapter.

Chapter 5

Contemporary perceptions of the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow

5.1. Introduction

Cresswell (1996: 157) and Tacon (1999: 34) argued that perceptions of place are formed from human experiences and interpretations of physical natural and manmade features in addition to social and cognitive outlooks. Preucel *et al* (2007: 215) believe that *space* is a physical location which can become a *place* when assigned cognitive meanings. It can therefore be hypothesized that landscapes are human constructs influenced by an assortment of factors such as local and personal histories, meanings, memories and experiences (c.f. Brück *et al* 1999: 1, Foster 2009: 97, Knapp 1999: 230, Olwig 2001: 93 and Ryden 1993). The variety of influential factors involved in the formation of perceptions accounts here for the diversity of vistas encountered in this project. Tilley (1993: 20 & 51) emphasized that multiple meanings are attached to landscapes and associated features which results in personal and dynamic perceptions of place. This theme is crystallized in Tuan's (1990: 5) statement that 'no two persons see the same reality.' It is therefore imperative that multiple perceptions are considered in order to fully understand how people view the landscape of Wearmouth and Jarrow. As Atalay (2008: 36) argued, all perceptions of landscape have equal *value* and *validity*, thus are considered as such within this chapter. In order to discern how contemporary people perceive the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow, this chapter will focus upon references of memories, experiences, emotions and understandings of the landscape. I will argue that the combination of these cognitive processes and personal experiences are fundamental in the formation of perceptions about local landscapes and therefore account for the diversity of perceptions. In addition, this

chapter will also explore perceptions about local heritage and the forthcoming bid for World Heritage Status for the churches of St Peter and St Paul.

5.2. Landscape of memories, experiences and emotions.

Personal experiences and memories have a profound influence upon the ways that people perceive the contemporary landscapes of Jarrow and Wearmouth. This was clearly demonstrated in participant narratives which associated landscapes with their personal experiences, encounters and forms of engagement (i.c. Chapter 4). Schultz (2000: 48) argued that landscapes and specific features are linked to *direct* and *indirect* memories of past events. *Direct* memories consist of an individual's personal experiences and remembrances whereas *indirect* memories are created through exposure to historical documentation and visual stimuli, such as historic buildings (c.f. Bennett 2009: 189). I would also like to hypothesise that indirect memories can be constructed and maintained through the transmission of verbal histories from one generation to another (c.f. Byrne 2009: 238, Skounti 2009: 77 and Ryden 1993). These memories are dynamic because they are exposed to continuous conscious and unconscious reinterpretations (c.f. Darvill 1999: 107, Hua 2009: 137, Taylor 2008:1 and Van Dommelen 1999: 278). Memories can be personal to a specific individual or small group of individuals who encountered the same direct or indirect stimuli (Hua 2009: 139). Also, memories can be shared within a community as folklore or cultural memory, which can provide insights into local desires, needs and concepts of identity (*Ibid*).

Participants of this study frequently associated direct memories to specific places in the landscape. St Peter's and St Paul's were often referenced in interviews in association with personal narratives of participant's experiences.

For example, when asked about the landscape of Monkwearmouth, Alan Perry, the present Warden at St Peter's, recalled his experiences of Rosemary Cramp's excavations:

'I use to stand and do fetching and carrying and 'Do you know if there is an extra ladder here?' and I use to go looking for things for them and putting the hot water on to make tea and this sort of thing.'

For Alan Perry, this memory is personal and was obtained through his own experiences, for others this recollection can only be recited as an indirect reference. Following Schultz' (2000) hypothesis, indirect memory could be retained, repeated and, in effect, become associated with St Paul's church. The indirect memory then can become folklore and influence future interpretations of this place. Hua (2009: 136) argues that indirect memories passed down by the retelling of stories from the previous generation can influence the formation of future identities. For example, the retelling of stories about the Jarrow March, the ship industry in Sunderland and of course St Bede has influenced contemporary perceptions as this thesis illustrates (c.f. pp. 109 - 114). Tangible memorials and dedications to these past events can result in varied interpretations by contemporary peoples (c.f. Wylie 2009). Maddrell (2009: 35 - 6) argued that cemeteries, war memorials and park benches frequently serve as memorialised markers to remember people and specific events, and for some, serve as *emotionally heightened* spaces. Participants of this study identified different memorials in the landscape and recounted variable perspectives about them. The following example considers participant's perceptions of the Jarrow March and the statue located at Jarrow's Viking Shopping centre.

The Jarrow March statue was mentioned by participants of all generations. The statue was depicted by a local primary school student in the drawing elicitation task. This student also recounted some of the stories she had been told about the march which had been taught at school (Figure 5.1, p. 112). This is indicative of the process of passing memories from older to

younger generations and the retention of communal memories. A secondary school student accredited the statue as being important because it is a ‘good symbol of Jarrow,’ due to the history it represented (Figure 5.2, p. 113). In contrast, Jennifer George, a local volunteer at St Paul’s, associated the monument with her own personal experience of winning a competition and attending the grand unveiling of the Jarrow March statue:

‘We saw the small version that the guy made, Graham Ibberson, when we were rubbing shoulders with the mayor and the Mayoress *et cetera* at the grand unveiling at Morrison’s supermarket. So the tiny little model he had made initially, well you know what’s on the statue, there is a lady holding a baby, leading the march then a couple of gentlemen, a little boy and a little girl and a dog, all very good.’

In contrast Jimmy Guy mentioned a relative’s involvement in the actual march. In his narrative, he related the march to the Jarrow area in general, rather than to the recently constructed bronze monument.

‘It [Jarrow] has its own history, if we go back to the 1930s the Jarrow crusade- my father was on it- looking back at them days, the bad old days and yet they use to call them the good old days,’

References made to the statue by members of the younger generations could reflect Ryden’s (1993: 91) hypothesis that through direct experience of an event, a stronger connection to a sense of place is forged, in comparison to those formed from second-hand encounters. To the younger generation, the statue is a symbol of a historic event and the principles that the marchers stood for, whereas participants who witnessed the march have personal memories of the actual event which can be linked to the Jarrow landscape as a whole.



Figure 5.1. *The Jarrow March Statue drawn by a student in year 3.*



Figure 5.2. *The Jarrow March statue, in a photograph taken by a secondary student during the photographic elicitation exercise.*

The Jarrow March also serves as a folkloric tale or symbol of past identity. Members of the local Jarrow History group contrasted today's generation with their perspective of past generations:

'I admire those men [involved in the Jarrow March] you would never get two hundred men to walk down from Jarrow today to London demanding work. They may do it as a publicity stunt, but I don't think it can be the intense feeling of trying to do something for the town.... I think one of the things that we have inherited from that, with quite a few people, is they still see themselves as martyrs of those

days in Jarrow. You know everyone does us down; whatever government is in power, they are doing us down' Ken Findlay.

The importance of nostalgia and collective identities in the mining village of Wheatley Hill (near Durham) was explored by the geographer Katy Bennett (2009). Bennett (2009: 189) argued that nostalgia allowed participants of the study to maintain local identity through storytelling, photographs, and public events in changeable times. The importance of maintaining past identities, and the fear that memories associated to Jarrow are being lost, was also discussed by Ken Findlay from the local history society:

'Some of us go around and do slide shows and basically show old pictures of Jarrow. What we are gradually coming to realise, particularly with younger people, is that we show pictures of things which are non-existent now and younger people don't even know where these things were.'

The transmittance of memories and experiences can be seen to be fundamental for the maintenance of local identity. Both Tilley (1993: 52) and Duncan *et al* (2001: 42) argued that residents often fear the erosion of local cultural identity, traditions and meanings associated to the landscape. To counteract this fear, as Bennett (2009) argued, performances of nostalgic events, public talks and the creation of documentation is used to transfer knowledge from one generation to the other. The maintenance of local history and the aesthetic character of the landscape were discussed by participants from both Jarrow and Wearmouth.

At Wearmouth, former students of Sunderland University commended recent regeneration schemes along the quayside, because traces of the city's industrial past have been incorporated into the new design.

David Nelson a former art student reflected upon the art work located along the Quayside:

‘The next one [photograph] is another bit of art work which is on the river which is of a tree like a metal tree and all of that. It look a bit like, reminds me of the cranes and all of that because of the way of the bark on the trunk and it reminds me of ship building and industry.’ (Figure. 5.3).



Figure 5.3. *A photograph taken by David Nelson of a sculpture located along Wearmouth's Quayside. The sculpture reminded the participant of the areas industrial past.*

Architecture at Wearmouth also prompted participants to reflect upon Wearmouth's industrial history. For example, Liam Bell commented:

‘ [The university Campus is] very modern, they've got the, well the architect has tried to make it look like, certain aspects of the building look like a ship whether or not you're suppose to... Other people think that but that is what he had in mind and way.’

The incorporation of elements of the former industrial character of the city helps to maintain the area's local identity; it also reflects the continuing importance of the shipbuilding industries as perceived by contemporary stakeholders and local people, valorised precisely because these activities or this industry has not yet been erased. Tilley (1993: 52) argues that landscape creates a *sense* of social identity reflected in the sculptures and architectural structures.



Figure 5.4. *Adam Gawne also commented upon a similar nautical theme incorporated in the design of the National Glass Centre; 'That [photograph] was just showing the grandness of the Glass Centre with the idea that it has the grandness of the ship masts.'*

A concern raised by members of Jarrow's local history group who believed that contemporary modern development has destroyed many characteristic buildings in the area. Both Tilley (1993: 52) and Aalen (2004: 3) recognise that landscapes can suffer standardisation due to the destruction of local buildings and the construction of homogeneous structures. It can be discerned that memory and experiences can have deep attachments to physical locations and

structures. This highlights the importance of ensuring the preservation of places and features which have significant local value, because it is *these* features which will represent the past and present to future generations.

Emotions are a direct personal response to both direct and indirect memories and experiences. Smith *et al* (2009b: 2) argue that emotions are an integral element of people's experiences of the world because they ascribe personal meanings to places and events. Therefore, landscape perception can also be highly personal to the individual, dependent upon the emotions they attribute to specific places (c.f. Foster 2009: 97). Emotionally-engaged landscapes are identifiable within feedback collected for this study, for example, Jimmy Guy, verger of St Paul's, reflected upon feelings attached to the church:

'It's a very happy church, you know. Some places you go aren't, but this place has got a bit of what I call ...stock and bound... it's a happy place.'

Similarly, members of the World Heritage Partnership discussed feelings they associated to the monastic buildings. For example, Pearl Saddington, the youth outreach officer at Bede's World, commented:

'It's the intangible you can't... me I can't really see it's that... like Jane, it's not a religious thing for me. It is that sense of place and that very, very strong spiritual pull that it has got [...] it's like the hairs standing up on your arm, and you cannot put that into words really.'

In addition Reverend. Bill Bravier reflected upon the atmosphere of St Paul's Church:

'That's something that I encounter a lot from people who visit the church, both churches, is that sense that you are in a place that has been prayed in, and what have you, for thirteen hundred years and that creates an intangible atmosphere, and

you do feel it and experience it, and people do go away changed by it, in whatever way.'

Emotions and *feelings* attached to places can, therefore be seen to enhance a person's experience and influence their perception of a place. Tilley (1993: 52) argued that structures such as megaliths do not 'work' in urban contexts because detachment from the landscape context leaves them without aura. Participants from the University of Sunderland also commented upon the *feel* of a place. James Kelly described the river as a place to 'get away from stuff and have a chill.' This concept recurred in a subsequent focus group session where Adam Gawne reflected upon how he felt free when cycling in Monkwearmouth:

'I think that mine was the freedom of just going along the coast and starting off and never knowing where you are going to go along it but just following the path just to see where you end up and then you end up like at South Shields. There's that starting off and not knowing where you are going to go and then you just go off on your bike and actually just do it and it just feels a lot better just doing it and you get to see all the different sides to the area and I think that that is just memorable.'

The feeling and the emotions which landscapes can evoke can be seen to influence contemporary perceptions of place. Some landscapes are perceived to have *atmospheres* which participants incorporate into their understanding of place.

5.3. Landscape of the senses

Humans primarily engage with landscapes by the use of the five human senses: *vision, touch, taste, hearing* and *smell* (Tuan 1990: 5 - 12). This raw data subsequently is submitted to cognitive interpretations to form perceptions tainted by personal experiences and knowledge (c.f. Foster 2009: 97 - 8). Cresswell (1996: 154) and Tuan (1990: 6) both believe that sight is the principle

sense used by humans to engage with the world. Our perceptions are influenced by what we see; however, subsequent actions and behaviour mould aesthetic preferences and practical characters into landscapes (Foster 2009: 97).

Aesthetics of the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow were frequently mentioned by participants. Landscapes were described with words such as, lovely, nice, run-down, and post-industrial. Foster (2009: 98) argues that environmental aesthetics can stir emotional interpretations and facilitate humans to understand their being and the world around them (i.c. Section 5.2, pp. 109 - 119). This was demonstrated in the photographic elicitation exercise where an employee of Sunderland University, Elaine Smith commented:

‘The reason that I took view was because the bridge was there, and it’s the oldest bridge, and the university. And also because I can remember when that was all shipyards, showing me age here, so that to me has memories because my husband use to work at the shipyard and I used to come down and see him down there. So I can remember all of that when it was flat and all shipyards and then the university just sort of rose out of it, which I think is really, really, a nice thing to remember.’

Visual stimuli in the landscape can therefore be seen to help provoke memories and feelings of nostalgia.

Meteorological and seasonal factors discussed previously, can also influence how a particular landscape is viewed and experiences at certain times. As mentioned previously, factors such as the weather can influence how we engage and utilize the landscape, and therefore influence our perception of it (i.c. 58 & 59). In addition, factors such as light can change the tone and hue of features within the landscape. This was identified by Johnson (2007: 20) who argued that variations in the time of day, light conditions and seasons has a profound influence upon the way we visualise the landscape. In addition, he also argues that increased exposure to these

variables in a particular landscape can increase a person's sense of familiarity with a specific vista (*Ibid*: xix). This factor was also raised by some participants involved in the photographic elicitation exercise. Adam Gawne took a photograph of St Peter's Church at Wearmouth because of the way that the light reflected off the building (Figure 5.5).



Figure 5.5. *A photograph taken of St Peter's Church at Wearmouth by former Sunderland University student Adam Gawne who commented: 'It was just the contrast between, like, the old and the new style of the actual church and just the way that the sun hits it as well.'*

Different weather conditions can impact upon how landscapes are experienced. For example, the weather can make you feel hot, cold and the texture of the wind, rain, sleet and snow can also be felt. During the photographic elicitation exercise David Nelson a former Sunderland University student recounted his experiences of the weather at Wearmouth:

‘The next one [Photo] is the National Glass Centre, it’s actually of the café bit. It’s just the memory of walking along with a friend, and all of that, and, we were walking along and all of a sudden there was this really, really, really, really bad snow blizzard and it was really cold. And we weren’t exactly dressed for winter and it was just like, we were just running to get to shelter and we went to the café for something to eat at the National Glass centre and we just sat at this really warm heater fire and it was just nice! Really warm! We were getting hypothermia!’

The weather can therefore be seen to influence how people experience the landscape, and also can also play a central role in some memories. Similarly sounds can also form a vivid aspect of memories associated to a place. For example, Alan Perry from St Peter’s recalled some of his earliest encounters with the church:

Alan: ‘The noise in sometimes in here [St Peters] on a Sunday was indescribable, if they were working some days riveting the ships. It wasn’t so bad when they started the welding, but, when I first came they use to rivet the ships and you use to have the *brrrr* noise going and echoing though the whole of the shift. It was quite noisy in here.’

Researcher: ‘Would that occur during the services as well?’

Alan: ‘Oh, yes, the poor vicar used to have to shout loud over the top of the noise of the ship building. You were very aware of it. It was quite amazing.’

Occasional references were made to smells which participants associated to certain places in the landscape. For example, Reverend Bill Bravier from St Paul's Church commented: 'It had its own unique smell. That is just the River Don sometimes, even today!' And Jim Wright a member of Jarrow's history group reflected upon his memories of the River Tyne; 'The River smelled at the time, it was a terrible smell!' It is clear to see as the principle form of contact with landscapes human senses have a direct influence upon the formation of our perceptions. Although no participants mentioned the sense of taste, a tentative link can be ascertained from the drawings produced by school children. When asked to draw a picture of the local landscape, many children depicted their favourite restaurants (i.c. Chapter 3, pp. 67 & 76). In addition, although not verbalised in this study, taste can influence your perception of place, for example, the taste of sea salt when you are close to the coast. The fact that this sense was not directly mentioned by participants is not indicative that taste does not play a slight role in the formation of perceptions of landscapes.

5.4. Understanding the landscape

Understanding is dynamic and constantly changing as people absorb more information from future engagement with the landscape. Bender (2007: 3) argued that landscapes undergo a constant process of construction and reconstruction and, therefore, understanding of landscapes is not static. The landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow are understood in a range of ways. Many participants reflected upon the landscape according to their own personal interests, which suggests that understanding is influenced by an individual's pastimes. For example, Jennifer George commented upon the wildlife in the area:

'We have got some lovely park areas along the Don, the local river, and a cornucopia of bird life. I saw a Heron yesterday because that's my thing.'

As a personal interest, Jennifer could not only identify the types of birds in the area, but she also remembered her encounter with the heron and associated it to the River Don in Jarrow. The landscape has therefore been associated to the participant's own personal interests and forms of engagement. This theme was also encountered in other interviews, for example Liam Bell a former Sunderland University student described aspects of the landscape which have personal importance because they are ideal for his sporting pursuits:

‘Over the last couple of months my, well my memory, has been of my football team training down by the sea and of the new, well I don't know how old it is, but the new harbour wall and all the paths and cycle routes down by the front are good for jogging and there are certain parts where you can do some hill training and stuff like that became important to me anyway and across the pier it's a good jog out there it is about a mile.’

Personal interests can be seen to influence the way that contemporary people engage with the landscape and therefore impacts upon how space is used, experienced, memorialized and understood.

Ryden (1993: 79) argued that vernacular names bestowed by people to places can provide indications of local perceptions and how landscapes are understood. In addition, Ryden argued that unofficial names can enhance a local peoples' sense of belonging, as places are provided code names which are unknown to outsiders. The phenomena of local unofficial naming of place was encountered during photographic elicitation exercises arranged with local teenagers. The teenagers guided the researcher to areas which they referred to by vernacular names such as the *Crusher*, *Horseshoe* and the *Eye*. The name *Crusher*, refers to open grass land located south of the Tyne (Figure 5.6, p. 125). Participants did not explain the name of the *Crusher*, which could relate to the areas industrial past; as one of the teens described ‘*it was a field then a quarry then a*

quarry with no coal, then a field again.' When asked how he knew this, the participant informed the researcher that his grandfather had told him. This suggests that contemporary understandings of the landscape are influenced by stories told by other generations. The *Horseshoe*, on the other hand, was named after its horseshoe-shape. Participants ascribed personal value to this structure because it was the focus of a game which they play with the aim of avoiding landing in the brook which is *'full of smelly dead parts'*. Similarly, the *Eye* relates to the shape of an eye-shaped gap in a tree which the teens try to jump through. These vernacular names provide an insight into the way that these teenagers understand the landscape of Jarrow; the names illustrate the shapes they see in structures and nature, which they have associated with local games. The naming process is also sometimes influenced by historic undertones.



Figure 5.6. *The Crusher, also known as Cambells Part situated in Jarrow.*

Participants of the study often referred to the landscape in comparison to other places or different times. This indicates that understanding of how things use to be, or are in other places, can act as a baseline for contemporary perceptions of landscapes. Frank Unwin, for example, reflected upon the differences in accessibility of the landscape in comparison to his home town in Wiltshire:

‘Personally having lived here I am proud of the place, I like the place. I love the combination of industrial and landscape. It is possible to walk around here so much more than where I was born and bred in Wiltshire. In Wiltshire you’d find a shot gun pointing at you.’

When asked about first impressions of the local landscape, Verity Kalinowski a student at Sunderland University conducted a verbal comparison between Wearmouth and her home turf:

‘Well I come from the countryside and from where I live it is just trees and hills and that kind of thing, so to come to here and see lots of buildings and flats and the shipyards and things like that and the warehouses right next to the sea, you know that kind of thing with lots of different, yeah I don’t know just more industrial.’

Whereas Jimmy Guy compared the contemporary landscape to how the landscape was when he was a child:

‘Well, I mean compared to when I was a boy, the amount of industry that has gone on the river, I mean just beyond the mud flats, which is now Nissan’s car park, which was a nature reserve [and a] tremendous amount of birds came over, [there was] the oil jetty, and it would be full of smoke and soot.’

This suggests that people use their own experiences and knowledge to understand the contemporary landscape. Therefore, familiar landscapes can become cognitive baselines from

which other places can be compared to. As Cresswell (1996: 154) argued, people understand the world through difference and therefore, perceptions would be limited if people live in a *continuous* and *unchanging context*.

5.5. Perceptions about the preservation of heritage and the Wearmouth-Jarrow World Heritage Bid

Participant's narratives about the Jarrow-Wearmouth bid for World Heritage status often contained similar aspirations for the future of the sites. The attainment of official recognition of the significance of the monastic remains and local cultural heritage was highlighted by both by members of the public and the World Heritage partnership. Participants occasionally reflected upon their belief that their local area was overshadowed because of dominant cities in the area, such as Durham and Newcastle. For example, former Sunderland University student James Kelly commented:

‘..I think that [success of the World Heritage Bid] will change the way that everyone sees Sunderland as a whole really, because Sunderland doesn't really get a very good reputation from people who haven't been here ... something like that [World Heritage Status] will definitely boost it up and make this area, in particular in Wearmouth, a more respectable place.’

Members of the World Heritage Partnership also remarked upon the importance of gaining recognition for the sites from global and local audiences. Official recognition of the significance of the sites was believed to be a catalyst for appreciation and understanding of the monuments and for attracting audiences from all over the world. Reverend Bill Bravier commented:

‘[World Heritage Status] will draw people’s attention, that it is, you know, globally recognised as an ...important place and get people who’ve never dived into it to ask the question ‘Why is it a World Heritage site?’ and learn more about it.’

Achievement of World Heritage status (WHS) for Wearmouth-Jarrow was perceived by participants of the study to be particularly important for local communities. This is because it is believed that WHS will encourage local people to be proud of their local heritage and city. Some participants reflected upon how a number of local people are not aware of the sites or their historical value. For example, Alan Perry, the vergier at St Peter’s, commented:

‘You wouldn’t believe the number of people who come here for baptisms and things like this, who have lived in Sunderland all of their lives, and are like ‘I’ve never been here before, I’ve passed it on the bus,’ and they have no comprehension of just what a jewel is sitting here [...] It’s far better known by people from miles away than it is from people sitting in the spot in Sunderland.’

These views were also shared by some members of the World Heritage Partnership who want something for local people to learn about, experience and be proud of:

Laura Sole: ‘I think that some people don’t realise the importance of what they have got until it is really officially recognised, and that recognition will have people saying ‘Oh, actually, that is important,’ and there is a lot of local pride in both sites but I think that official recognition is proof, in some ways, that will change the way people see the sites.’

Tom Gibbons: ‘What I find amazing is that the more you can get involved in this, and the more that you learn, you get more people come and it completely blows your mind. Each stage and that process haven’t stopped for me and it’s really hard

to get across, you know. It's a huge knowledge gap and understanding, and I think that we have every reason to be proud, and I am hoping, and I think that the bid will actually help that.'

In addition to promotion of the sites, achievement of World Heritage Status was perceived to be important for future preservation of the actual monastic sites as well as their landscape context. For example, Professor Rosemary Cramp commented:

'I think to stop inappropriate developments, which will overwhelm the impressions of the site in a buffer zone around, is very important, and so I do think, possibly, that the planners and the general public will have a feeling that this should be a protected area around both of these sites, because they are important and precious and they were perhaps not seen as important and precious before.'

Jimmy Guy the verger at St Paul's Church, believes that:

'[People] will appreciate it more because the more they find out about their own community and about the histories of their own community, they will really start [to] appreciate it. Because if there's one thing I have learned in this life, and you will probably learn it too, you'll never value anything until you lose it.'

However, in contrast, some members of Jarrow's local history group believed that the sites are important, although there are also many other historical treasures in the local areas which also deserve some form of recognition; for example, places associated with famed novelist Catherine Cookson and industrial architecture.

5.6. Discussion:

Enriken (1991: 58) argued that meaning should be conserved like a species or finite resource for future generations. To some extent, this is evident in contemporary perceptions of the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow as fragments of meanings and local stories associated to places are actively being transferred to younger generations.

However, Ken Findley a member of the Jarrow history group believes:

‘The big problem is, we keep bringing this up now, is to try and get people to write their reminiscences down, but most people won’t, because we are at a stage where a lot of us know what they are talking about, but there is a lot of people; you hear it in there when they say ‘Why would I want to write it down for? Everyone knows what I know!’ but they don’t.’

It is therefore evident that only a fraction of meaning is maintained and transmitted to the next generation. Hua (2009: 139) argued that what is remembered by the individual is very selective, and therefore, what is remembered can be assumed to have greater personal significance than memories which are forgotten. Perhaps the same principle can be applied to the transmittance and retention of local knowledge. As illustrated by this chapter, perceptions and the transfer of knowledge impacts the construction of contemporary perspectives and will influence the formation of understandings.

Contested opinion about the preservation of different aspects of the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow and the forthcoming World Heritage Bid, raise important questions about the future of these areas. Participant’s perceptions were influenced by the palimpsest of physical structures preserved in the contemporary landscape. Adam Gawne reflected upon how

the current landscape of Wearmouth incorporates new features amongst structures preserved from times past:

‘You see the changes of what has been there, and the changes that have happened in Sunderland, and [the new] generation coming through,’

Without a doubt, new developments are shaping the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow, for example, Tyne Tunnel two, and the new University Campus. These developments have enabled people of our time to stamp their marks upon the landscape. Residues of past times have maintained their importance as physical structures, themes in contemporary architecture and art, in addition to active aspects of personal and shared memories of local communities. It is therefore imperative that an appropriate balance is achieved between the maintenance of heritage, symbols of identity and the needs of contemporary developments.

Success of the World Heritage bid is seen as not only a practical means of providing protection to the twin churches and their symbolic role in the formation of local identity; but also serves to promote this heritage to both local and wider audiences. The monastic remains of St Peter’s and St Paul’s have such a profound meaning for a wide range of individuals. Efforts to gain recognition have already opened up the landscape, through promotions, for it to be experienced, understood and engaged with by local and national peoples. Although, as commented by Ken Findley, there should also be recognition, or at least sufficient protection for heritage which is at risk in Wearmouth and Jarrow’s landscapes; such as the Victorian terraces. Landscapes can be seen to be understood by a multitude of interrelated factors which range from bodily senses to cognitive processes such as interests, memories, experiences and knowledge. Perspectives are also influenced by the fragments which are preserved in rhetoric, documentations

Chapter 6

Discussion

6.1. Introduction

The Contemporary and Competing Vistas project aimed to discern the diversity of public perceptions in regards to the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow. This project has achieved this aim by providing a medium for members of the public and the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership to voice opinions about the importance of the tangible and intangible features which have shaped *their* perceptions of the monastic remains and their hinterlands (i.c. Aim i and objective i; Section 1.6. pp.35-36). This thesis has highlighted the pluralistic nature of people's perceptions, and thus re-asserts the validity of contemporary concerns in regards to the definition, protection and preservation of tangible and intangible heritage (c.f. Aikawa-Faure 2009: 13, Blake 2006, Byne 2009: 230, Smith 2009c, Skounti 2009: 77, Waterton 2005: 309 and UNESCO 2002: 26 - 28). This chapter explores the key themes identified in this thesis, such as the use of heritage as legitimization for contemporary activities and local identities, the fusion between the tangible and the intangible, the disparity of public knowledge of the core sites and hinterlands of the monasteries, and the sense of boundless-place acknowledged in many participant responses. In addition this chapter discusses how important it is for policy makers to consider the diverse range of perceptions associated with landscapes and heritage in advance of conservation, construction, demolition and regeneration schemes. The data captured in this project revealed that the views of the Steering Group and the perceptions of the public were not always the same during Wearmouth-Jarrow bid for World Heritage Status. This has prompted the recommendation that further consultation should be arranged with the public in order to discern an appropriate balance between the promotion of the monastic remains and alternate forms of heritage within the potential World Heritage sites' buffer zones.

This chapter ends with a reflective section that considers the limitations of this research and the methodologies adopted. To conclude this thesis, a series of recommendations for future studies into contemporary perceptions of landscapes are outlined; and more specifically, future examination of contemporary perceptions of the vistas of Jarrow and Wearmouth are recommended using a wider sample.

6.2. The promotion of heritage as a means of legitimisation for contemporary activities and a sense of local identity

The churches of Wearmouth and Jarrow and other forms of local heritage were shown to have value as a means of legitimizing contemporary activities and forms of land-use in the study area. For example, in Wearmouth, Sunderland University was perceived to be maintaining the scholarly traditions of Bede and the National Glass Centre was linked to early accounts of the glaziers from Gaul involved in glass making at St Peter's Monastery:

'[The] National Glass Centre is adapting its remit to make it explicit as to why it is there on the site because Benedict Biscop brought the glaziers from Gaul.' Reverend Dr Ian Stockton.

The valorisation of the connection between the National Glass Centre and early glass making at the Anglo-Saxon monasteries could be detrimental to public awareness of connections between the centre and Sunderland's notorious 18th – 20th Century glass industry (c.f. Cookson 2010: 39 - 40). This could reinforce Skounti (2009: 76) view that certain types of heritages are often promoted and valorised because they are provided with official support from local authorities while minority heritages without such backing can become overlooked (c.f. McDowell 2008: 44, Perry 2005: 184 and Smith 2006: 31). Connecting contemporary structures and activities to the Anglo-Saxon heritages of Wearmouth and Jarrow is certainly a reflection of the current importance placed upon the monastic remains at St Peter's and St Paul's in light of the forthcoming World Heritage Bid, rather than an attempt to detriment or erase minority forms

of local heritage (c.f. Smith 2009: 1). This raises the striking issue of whether official support can lead to the development of types of heritage that local communities fail to value or engage in.

Laurajane Smith (2009: 1 - 2) suggests that contemporary social inclusion policies often fail to encourage people to visit sites because of focus placed upon 'elite' and 'aesthetically' pleasing places (c.f. Fowler 1987: 409). As identified by Matt Perry (2005: 184) visitors to the North East of England can visit cathedrals and stately homes, however, many streets associated to industrial eras have been destroyed. The enduring presence of St Peter's and St Paul's churches was identified by participants as a stark contrast to the fast changing post-industrial landscape of their hinterlands (i.c. pp. 106 - 105). Reverend Tom Gibbons from the steering group pondered 'I wonder sometimes if we are trying to cleanse the place of industry?' However, as this study suggests industrial heritage are tightly entwined within participant's perceptions of the tangible and intangible landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow. The importance of the Wearmouth and Jarrow's industrial heritage was frequently highlighted by both the general public and WHB steering group in their recollections of personal experience and ancestral stories. Themes such as Tyne and Wear's industries, former slums, historic events and the erosion and change of the landscape and earlier communities were frequently discussed. In contrast, the general public often discussed the Venerable Bede and monks at St Peter's and St Paul's as historic or mythical figures who can be studied in books, school lessons and visits to the monastic remains and Bede's World rather than as relatable ancestors linked to personal or community identities. However, members of the steering groups and volunteers at the churches discussed Bede and the monks as an intangible residue which can be encountered and experienced in the atmosphere of the core sites: 'It's the idea that Bede would have walked through that part of the church, where you walk through.' (Anonymous 2). This contrast emphasises the diversity of ways in which people perceive tangible places and associated intangible vistas. As suggested by Byrne (2009: 249) perceived connectedness to past and present peoples could produce a sense of

belonging felt by contemporary people to specific places. The variety of affiliations with past people, events and places encountered in this study is indicative of the diversity of perceptions of the Wearmouth and Jarrow's landscapes, local identity and heritage. This raises the issues of whether there are facilities in Wearmouth and Jarrow for alternate forms of heritage to be conserved, displayed and promoted.

Despite the current emphasis placed upon Bede and the Anglo-Saxon monastic remains by the WHB steering group, volunteers at the churches and the local media and recent regeneration schemes, alternate forms of heritage can still be experienced in local architecture, art work and local exhibitions. Exhibitions held at Bede's World, the National Glass Centre, South Shield's and Sunderland Museums demonstrate that the local value of industrial heritage is officially recognised (c.f. Perry 2005: 178 and Usherwood 2000: 190 – 191). Sunderland Museum for instance, hosts permanent exhibitions which display and promote local textile traditions in addition to shipbuilding, glass production and coal mining heritages (c.f. TWM 2008: Online). In addition, in Wearmouth the local community have previously been involved in identifying forms of heritage which were subsequently incorporated into a series of public art works which are still visible along St Peter's Quayside today (Usherwood 2000: 190 – 191). The bulk of the art work memorialises industries which were once prominent in Wearmouth's landscape, rather than monastic heritages. It can therefore be tentatively suggested that in Wearmouth the monastic importance of the landscape was not previously as well recognised by the public to the same extent as other forms of heritage prior to promotion of the WHB. As emphasised by Sam Turner (2006: 394) the question as to whose heritage should be preserved, enhanced or destroyed is a contested and problematic issue. It is imperative that future initiatives in Wearmouth and Jarrow continue to encourage community participation and consultations to ensure that contemporary perceptions of heritage and landscapes can be ascertained in order for them to be adequately regulated, preserved and promoted (c.f. Smith 2009: 1 - 2).

6.3. The fusion between tangible and intangible

The fusion between tangible and intangible heritages was unearthed in participant narratives which emphasized feelings of loss, pride, celebration and remembrance in addition to nostalgic reflections associated with recent construction, demolition and regeneration schemes (c.f. Wylie 2009). For instance, these emotions were expressed in regards to the construction of the new Tyne Tunnel, the demolition of the old Jarrow School and the regeneration of Wearside's Quay (i.c. Chapter 4, pp. 106 - 107). However as Skounti argued (2009: 77) tangible features are frequently destroyed whereas associated cognitions often endure. For example, Campbell Park also known as the Crusher, in Jarrow, was associated by one participant with former industrial land-use because of stories his grandfather had told him and not because of any visible or recognisable trace of these past activities (i.c. Chapter 4, p. 124). However despite the enduring quality of intangible heritages associated to place perceptions are interpreted and re-interpreted by the mind and therefore can frequently change (c.f. Darvill 1999: 107, Taylor 2008: 1 and Tuan 1990). Byne (2009: 248) identified the cultural importance of telling stories in order to transmit knowledge to younger generations and in doing so *continuing* ancestral traditions of preserving the past through communication. In the contemporary world intangible heritage is not only shared in oral tradition it is transferred on a global scale facilitated by modern technologies such as television and the internet (c.f. Carrozzino 2010: 1 and Goodey 1971: 6). However as Skoune (2009: 76) posited once intangible heritages are removed from their spatial and social context they are exposed to variable forms of distortion which can reduce authenticity. Therefore authenticity can also decrease when intangible connections associated with a place are inherited by an individual who has not been directly exposed to the original stimuli. For example, Ian Nicholson recounted family stories associated with Wearmouth's landscapes, various occupations his ancestors had had and local events, however these reflections did not refer to his ancestors feeling and emotions associated to their experiences

(i.c. transcript MWM10(3)). As Katy Bennett (2009) posited, nostalgic recreations and forms of remembrance can link present people with their cultural past and ensure a form of continuity in the face of changes to tangible features. Perhaps this is also evident in Wearmouth where participants memorialised the former 'Barbary Coast' community in vivid nostalgic recollections in the absence of tangible remains.

Intangible heritages can become tangible in the form of memorialisation (c.f. Gabie 2001: Online and Wylie 2009). Memorialisation is evident within this study's geographical parameters, for example the Jarrow March Statue, the miner's memorial, human sculptures, art work, architecture, grave stones and war memorials. These memorials represented former events, industries and people associated with the past which participants often endeavoured to relate themselves too. Wylie (2009) posited that feelings of 'loss' and 'absence' can prompt heritage to be preserved in both physical and cognitive forms of memorialisation (c.f. Wood 2009: 3). In addition, other emotions such as pride, celebration and remembrance can be associated to tangible features. Participants of this study often reflected upon the symbolic nature of architecture and public works of art. In Jarrow the *Spirit of the Crusade* statue was perceived by one teenager to be a 'good symbol of Jarrow' and others connected the statue with strong community values of working class people and their march against unemployment and poverty (c.f. transcript JRW10 (13)). In addition, in Wearmouth participants identified the fact that the architectural design of the National Glass Centre was inspired by former ship building industries.

Tangible representations of intangible heritages have the ability to enhance contemporary people's experience of the landscape and provoke a range of emotions and associations with past eras, events and activities. However, the range of intangible associations with place represented in public art is a fraction of those expressed in this project. This highlights the fact that many unrecorded personal heritages and experiences associated to the landscapes of

Wearmouth and Jarrow are at risk of being eroded by time because people can be reluctant to record their reminiscences (i.c. Chapter 5, Section 5.4).

6.4. Competing knowledge of the sites and their hinterlands

An aim of the Contemporary and Competing Vistas project was to evaluate participant references to the monastic importance of St Peter's and St Paul's hinterlands and identify alternate perceptions of the significance of the local landscapes (i.c. Aim ii, Section 1.6. p. 35). During the study, it was identified that participants, who were aware of one or both of St Paul's and St Peter's churches, did not discuss the immediate hinterland of the site as a part of a larger monastic landscape. Instead, frequent references were made to contemporary physical boundaries which encompass the immediate areas around the churches and *separate* these churches and monuments from the wider landscape. Some participants had lived in the vicinity of the churches since birth however had rarely, or had never, visited the churches themselves. In contrast other participants knew the church and their settings intimately, for example volunteers and guides at St Peter's and St Paul's and some members of the World Heritage Partnership. It could be hypothesized that landscapes are perceived in retrospect to an individual's personal knowledge of a location and in relation to the development of their own personal identity. Therefore people who have less understanding of the historical landscape and have not been exposed to or educated about former landscapes will perceive the landscape from considerably different view point. The hinterlands of St Peter's and St Paul's were frequently associated by most participants with social and recreational uses, childhood memories, a changing industrial landscape, environmental aesthetics, wildlife and community identity rather than former monastic links. These forms of land-use, activities, observations and personal memories often reflected participants own experiences from engaging with the landscape on a daily basis. In Wearmouth, St Peter's is located in the midst of these social activities due to the juxtaposition of residential properties, the University, the National Glass Centre and the

Mariner. In contrast, St Paul's is dislocated from the contemporary hub of Jarrow town. As identified by Rosemary Cramp during excavations there was a community feeling associated with St Peter's which was not experienced to the same extent at St Paul's. For participants of this study not connected to the church, activities associated with Jarrow's shopping centre, residential areas and nearby parks were frequently the focus in narratives, art work and photography. Whereas participants actively included St Peter's in photographic compositions to portray the contrast between the old and the new, and to highlight the enduring architectural presence of the church in a changing landscape. The perceived physical separateness between the churches and Jarrow's residents could prove to be an issue after the WHB for attracting local visitors. However, the publication and exhibition of the OMTP landscape study, including this strand of research, offers perhaps, an opportunity to make people more aware of the setting of St Peter's and St Paul's in a wider monastic landscape.

Although not directly investigated in the parameters of this study, references made to exhibitions designed to disseminate information about the core sites and hinterlands to visitors appear to have had variable success. Bede's World was often mentioned by school children who recounted memories of school trips to the recreated Anglo-Saxon farm and their experiences of dressing up as monks at St Paul's. However, few references were made to the museum displays at Bede's World and no references were made in regards to the recent and highly publicised exhibition 'Bede the Scientist'. In addition, only one reference was made in connection with the archaeological display at St Peter's church and this narrative focused upon the buried remains which visitors can observe by peering down a viewing box. Perhaps this suggests that active experiences can heighten an individual's sense of place and invoke memories with greater longevity than static displays. Perhaps after the World Heritage Bid, investigations should be instigated in order to establish more effective ways to engage the public with displays and disseminate information about the monasteries and their hinterlands.

6.5. Public Sense of boundless-place

This project also aimed to identify competing perceptions of links between the geographically separate landscapes of Jarrow and Wearmouth in addition to connections to sites external of the study area (i.c. Aim iii, Section 1.6. p. 35). It was identified that travel networks and encounters with local, national and international peoples have created a sense of boundlessness in Wearmouth and Jarrow which has facilitated a range of connections with people and locations beyond the study area. The impression of a boundless permeable landscape was presented in narratives, photographs and drawings related to contemporary networks of travel such as roads, railways, flight paths, cycle routes and foot paths. Participants sometimes mentioned areas outside of the geographical parameters of this study such as Hebburn swimming pool, Hebburn Cemetery, restaurants near South Shields, Newcastle, Boldon, Whitburn, Sunderland City Centre, the Cheviot Hills in Northumberland, Norfolk and Holland. These references reiterate the sense of boundlessness as contemporary people have the means to travel, experience different places and not feel restricted by geographical proximity. During elicitation exercises participant bearings through the landscape often traced established routes sometimes bordered by walls, fences and hedges which restricted deviation from pre-defined courses. However, as illustrated in Figures 3.1 and 3.2. occasionally physical corridors through the landscape were ignored in favour of chartering unmarked ground over fields, grass verges and car parks (pp. 69 - 70). In striking contrast, the iron railings which encompass St Peter's were perceived by some as an impermeable barrier which alienates the site from the wider landscape. In addition, some members of the steering group suggested that people's pre-conceived ideas about churches may form intangible barriers which deter them from visiting which raised concerns about bringing in new audiences to the churches (i.c. Appendix 5, transcript WHB10(3)).

The sense of boundlessness was reinforced with discussions about encounters with local, national and international peoples. However, there is a significant contrast in the locations

where these different types of encounters were associated with. For example, encounters with local residents, friends and family were often associated with the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow in general. Particular people were occasionally associated with specific places, for example some Team rectors, Reverends and volunteers were discussed by members of the public in connection to St Peter's and St Paul's. Friends and family were associated with various places in the landscape where social interaction occurs, for example, in public parks, residential areas, shopping centres and the beach at Roker. Places of social interaction were also frequently the destinations of elicitation groups (i.c. pp. 83 - 87). In contrast, members of the steering group and volunteers associated with the churches frequently connected the monastic sites with historical figures such as Bede and Benedict Biscop. They also associated St Paul's and St Peter's as places for encounters with international students, tourists and pilgrims were often perceived to be a continuation of a tradition with medieval origins of pilgrimage. This view was justified with reflections made to medieval pilgrimages to Europe and the arrival of continental craftsmen who assisted in the construction of the twin churches. These social encounters were often remembered and recalled in detail and also with pride that not only local and national visitors recognized the value of St Peter's and St Paul's but also people from around the world. Perhaps the process of the WHB has already altered the way that some people perceive the sites as a result of promotion and increased national and international interest.

6.6. Project and the bid: the common perspective

Obtaining insights into public, steering groups and local stakeholders perceptions of the potential influence that achievement of World Heritage Status will have upon the future of the Jarrow and Wearmouth's landscapes was a key aim of this project (i.c. Aim vii, Section 1.6. p. 35). However, this aim was only partially successful because no stakeholders volunteered to participate in this study (i.c. Section 6.7. p. 144). Endeavours for World Heritage Status for Wearmouth-Jarrow were perceived to be a positive movement which could enhance the

contemporary environment by gaining local, national and international recognition for the wealth of heritage in Jarrow and Wearmouth. Participants who were not aware of the bid prior to participation in this project also expressed support for the WHB. Many participants expressed a concern that their town was overlooked both nationally and internationally because of larger cities such as Newcastle and Durham which are associated to Hadrian's Wall and Durham Cathedral.

'Sunderland where is Sunderland? Oh its somewhere in Scotland or it's a part of Newcastle isn't it? That's the two biggest answers you get if you go down south and you say where you are from.' (Christopher Watson)

The positive feedback collected about the bid could be seen to reflect the pride which local people have in the fact that a tangible feature in their home town has the potential to gain official recognition for its importance (i.c. Section 6.2.4.). Members of the Wearmouth-Jarrow interpretation group also recognised the local importance of gaining international recognition for the two churches in terms of local pride. If the twin sites gain WHS and are recognised as sites of 'outstanding universal value' the pride felt by those connected to the churches could extend to other members of the community (i.c. pp. 127 – 129 and c.f. English Heritage 2008: 2).

On the other hand, one participant raised the issue of whether the bid had taken into account other forms of heritage that might be considered important to local people. This participant argued that all that can be done has been achieved in the consolidation and promotion of St Paul's, but other forms of local heritage are equally as valuable, however, are at risk because their value is not formally recognised. For example, buildings associated to former industries and terrace housing associated to Jarrow's famous author, Catherine Cookson. As discussed in Section 6.2. (pp. 133 - 136) it is clearly not their intention that the churches gain

heritage status to the detriment of other forms of heritages. This highlights the awareness that the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership have about other aspects of local heritage within the vicinity of the twin churches. In addition, the fact that St Peter's and St Paul's are one aspect of a multi-layered *heritagescape* is highlighted (c.f. Garden 2009). Perhaps the strong impetus behind the bid for World Heritage Status may overshadow other forms of heritage relevant to the people of the area. However, the undertaking of this English Heritage funded thesis into competing perceptions of the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow has offered an opportunity to reassert contemporary acknowledgement of the plurality and often contested nature of heritage within the defined area of the World Heritage Sites.

6.7. Limitations of Research

The credibility of these findings are limited by a number of methodological issues. The main limitation to the validity of this study was the fact that participants were often only involved in one interview, focus group or elicitation session. As highlighted by Charmaz *et al* (2011: 303) the credibility of a study and associated theoretical outcomes can be enhanced if multiple sessions are arranged with the same participants, or with different participants from the same geographical location, over a longer time-span. In hindsight the range of complex qualitative data collected in this study should have been verified and questioned with multiple sessions which could have increased the depth of data and validity of subsequent interpretations (c.f. Charmaz *et al* 2011: 303 and Bennett 2009).

The second major limitation of this study was due to variations in the effectiveness of the recruitment strategies and the final scope of participants. As an aim of this study, it was intended to establish whether participants of different ages considered the landscapes of Wearmouth and Jarrow differently (i.c. Aim vi, Section 1.6. p. 35). However limitations in the

adopted recruitment strategy failed to recruit schools from Wearmouth and therefore, limited a full comparison between the perceptions of school children and adult participants. In contrast, in Jarrow comparisons between primary and secondary school children and adult perceptions were possible and have been compared and contrasted throughout the thesis (i.c. pp.58, 60-62, 65, 85 and 110 - 114). The recruitment strategy also failed to gain the interest of local stakeholders which has limited our insights into their perceptions of Wearmouth, Jarrow and the WHB (i.c. Section 6.6. p.142). It is recommended that the recruitment strategies used in this study are subsequently reviewed in order to ascertain why they were sometimes ineffective. In total over one hundred and forty people participated in this project however greater analysis into public perceptions could have been gained if there was a longer time frame to consider a wider sample of data. A wider sample would enhance snap-shot of the diversity contemporary perceptions in Wearmouth and Jarrow. In addition, with a longer data collection period more efforts could be made to recruit participants underrepresented in this project such as people with disabilities and those from different religious and cultural backgrounds. Perhaps the dissemination of the results from this study can be used to highlight the importance of local perceptions of landscapes and encourage people to participate in any subsequent research in Wearmouth and Jarrow (i.c. Section 6.10, pp. 147 – 148) .

An aim of this study was to re-assess the potential for GIS as a tool for the collection and analysis of qualitative data (i.c. Aim viii, Section 1.6. p.36). It was found that GIS land-use polygons had limited validity because the spatial parameters were defined by the researcher in response to locations referenced in participant narratives. In hindsight this method would have been more effective and valid if participants were given the opportunity to define the geographical parameters of certain land-uses by drawing their own polygons onto Ordnance Survey maps. However, this method would also be problematic because surveyed OS maps would lack ecological validity as these two-dimensional cartographic documents could influence

participant's perceptions of boundaries. Perhaps allowing participants to draw their own maps would be more effective however this could hinder subsequent interpretations because drawings would be without scale and therefore would be problematic to plot using GIS (c.f. Bryne 2009 and Fitzjohn 2009). The methods used in this study could be refined to be incorporated into future research of landscapes and how the diversity of ways that they are characterized in retrospect of an individual's personal perceptions. Perhaps if the GIS methods used in this study are suitably modified they could be used to develop new frameworks for Historical Landscape Characterization (HLC) and facilitate means for UNESCO to work alongside local communities of inscribed sites to record and safeguard intangible heritages.

6.8. Contrast and critique of Historical Landscape Characterization

As discussed in Chapter 3, this thesis has provided an alternate perspective of perceived forms of land-use to those identified by researchers involved in the OMTP landscape study. The results of both studies can be compared in future analysis of perceptions of Wearmouth and Jarrow. In addition, digital maps created by both projects can be dove-tailed because in order to fulfil aim v and objective iv the geographical parameters used in the OMTP project were also used in this study (i.c. pp. 14 – 16 and pp. 35 - 36). The mapping of contemporary perspectives is a step towards the formation of a multi-layered database where the plurality of landscapes is acknowledged rather than the narrow single-layered models constructed through HLC (c.f. Turner *et al* 2009: 217). As envisioned by Turner *et al* (2009: 217) the development of a unified framework which considers the diversity of perceptions will improve contemporary understanding of past and present forms of land-use. The development of such a framework would allow HLC data to be used to its full potential and provide context to aid understanding of the development of contemporary personal and communal perceptions (c.f. Turner 2006: 393). In addition, this framework could facilitate an innovative, dynamic and interactive form of recording. As the methods used in this thesis have indicated, landscapes are understood through

a broad range of competing perspectives which to a limited extent can be digitally mapped in order to illustrate contemporary perceptions of place. Objective ii which outlined the inclusion of digital maps into this project to illustrate contemporary and competing perceptions was accomplished to a certain extent (i.c. p. 36). In this project digital maps were created to portray perceived forms of land-use, routes taken in the elicitation task, the locations where photographs were taken and places depicted in participant art work (i.c. pp. 70-71 and 83-84). The maps created in this project could be improved with further research into the use of digital maps to record emotions, experiences and memories. This will facilitate the exploration of the full capacity of spatial mapping software for the presentation and analysis of public perceptions of place. Perhaps similar to interactive databases such as *Bing Maps*, *Google World* and *Google Maps*, the future HLC projects could be open to online contributions of photographs, scanned art work, comments and characterizations. This would facilitate the creation of a multilayered database which is open to ongoing interpretation and will form an archive of intangible heritages in addition to providing policy makers, developers and councils the opportunity to understand minority legacies. However, any framework could be limited as identified in this study perceptions of landscape are problematic to plot because intangible meanings are diverse and often have tenuous spatial associations (c.f. Brabyn 2009: 319).

It can be posited that any national or regional investigation into perceptions of landscapes could be problematic because of the diversity of perceptions encountered within the limited geographical parameters of this study. Brabyn (2009: 319) suggests that many forms of landscape characterization cannot be obtained on a national level in New Zealand because of the variety of meanings associated with space. Perhaps then, as Byrne (2009: 249) suggested, investigations into the intangible should be conducted on a localised level. As James *et al's* (2007: 423) study indicated *community task teams* are capable of conducting their own landscape characterization projects which can be used to open up negotiations with planning departments.

Perhaps then, HLC and UNESCO could consider conducting localised studies into perceptions of landscapes and World Heritage sites. This would allow diverse perceptions of landscapes and heritages to be identified, understood, promoted and appropriately safeguarded.

6.9. Contrasting perceptions and their importance for policy making and UNESCO and for Wearmouth-Jarrow after the bid.

A range competing perceptions of the importance of various aspects of Wearmouth and Jarrow's landscapes have been identified as aimed in Section 1.6. (i.c. Aim iv, p. 35). In addition factors such as memory, experiences, land-use, cultural identity and emotions were identified as having an influence upon the perceived importance of place. Contested opinions about the forms of tangible heritage which participants feel should be preserved, has emphasized the importance of public consultation in decisions made in relation to conservation, demolitions, constructions and regeneration schemes (c.f. Goodey 1971: 10, James *et al* 2007, Jones 2004 and Smith *et al* 2009a: 76 & 139). In addition, the strong intangible connections and vivid oral traditions revealed here highlight other facets of heritage which could also require preservation or tangible representation. Article 17 produced during UNESCO's 2003 Convention on the *Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, stated that lists of intangible cultural heritage at risk should be created (Blake 2006: 83 - 85). It was intended that this list would be used to implement schemes to safeguard these heritages under threat for future generations (*Ibid*). However, as this thesis highlights there are many contrasting and competing forms of intangible heritage. In addition tangible heritage is not static and undergoes constant revising (c.f. Smith *et al* 2009c: 3 and Taylor 2008: 1). Perhaps, as UNESCO acknowledges that tangible changes to the hinterlands of World Heritage Sites should be permitted because they represent local traditions of change, tangible heritages should also be understood as being both dynamic and fluid (UNESCO 2005: 2 and c.f. Smith 2009c: 6). Without a doubt the forthcoming Wearmouth-Jarrow bid for World Heritage Status has already influenced some people's

perceptions about the sites and their hinterlands. Means of protecting and recognising intangible heritage are catalysts for changing how people perceive their own heritage because as this study has suggested, gaining WHS and formal recognition has invoked pride, understanding and enthusiasm from the general public (c.f. Klimpke *et al* 2006: 157). The diversity of perceptions encountered in this study raises the question that if heritage is ‘what we value’ or what we wish ‘to pass on’ then whose concept of value is adhered to? (Deacon *et al* 2004: 7). UNESCO recognises the diversity of heritage however the use of broad generalized overviews could limit our insights into the complexity and contested nature of contemporary perceptions (Byrne 2009: 243 – 244 and 249, Rössler 2006: 350 and Vecco 2009: 323). Perhaps this is a sign that further research into the identification and value of intangible meanings connected to place and the influence of *safeguarding* policies upon perceptions and intangible heritage is necessary. Although the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership recognise the role of alternate perceptions of the sites’ hinterlands, perhaps steps could be taken to provide local residents and visitors the opportunity to view a glimpse of how the monastic remains are tied to the diverse range of local tangible and intangible heritages. Not only would this emphasize the enduring quality of the remains, it would enable visitors to become aware of the various ways in which the sites have been used and perceived in retrospect to changing landscape and cultural contexts.

6.10. Recommendations for Future Research

The most important recommendation for policy makers, the Wearmouth-Jarrow partnership and local authorities would be to continue to incorporate public perceptions into decision making process about heritage, regeneration, constructions and demolition schemes. In addition as Laurajane Smith *et al* (2009a: 140) suggests, policy makers should be prepared to negotiate and if necessary alter drafted plans in retrospective of public feedback. As identified by Malcolm Cooper (2010: 150) regulations implemented today are responsible not only for

contemporary activities and life experiences but also can have an effect upon the future. It is therefore imperative that authorities recognise the implications of changes made to the protection, modification and development of the contemporary landscapes. Perhaps with refinement; interviews, focus groups and elicitation methods, as piloted in this study, could be used to collect data and open up networks of communication between the public and local authorities. This could ensure that future decisions consider alternate perspectives and the importance of both tangible and intangible heritages.

The development of a framework which provides formal recognition of the interdependent relationship between tangible and intangible forms of heritage should be designed in order to protect and disseminate insights into the diverse and dynamic forms of heritage (c.f. Deacon *et al* 2004: 64). Frank Hassard (2009: 270) posited that current dialogues about intangible forms of heritage have had a restricted impact upon contemporary cultural resource management policies because of limitations in current understandings and subsequent lack of formal recognition from official institutes. In addition, Denis Byrne (2009: 249) suggested that institutes such as UNESCO which do recognise both intangible and tangible forms of heritage as worthy of safeguarding, often adopt an approaches which are too broad (i.c. p.146 - 147). There is scope for future investigations to ascertain a greater understanding of the fusion between tangible and intangible forms of heritage on a localised level. Such research could facilitate the development of a framework which considers the interdependence of tangible and intangible heritages and transform the way that sites are studied, protected and experienced. As highlighted by Turner *et al* (2009) there is a need for HLC projects to recognise pluralistic, multi-layered perceptions of landscapes. Methods used in this thesis could also be refined and applied to future HLC projects in order to create additional layers to established GIS databases. This would facilitate not only greater understanding of how people perceive and use landscapes but if such a project was continuous, a catalogue of perceptions over a long period of time can be recorded. This

would facilitate future comparisons of intangible heritages and provide insights into how themes such as identity, sense of place and experiences change over time.

This study strongly recommends that further research should be conducted in order to gain a fuller insight into contemporary perceptions of Wearmouth and Jarrow. As Denis Byrne (2009: 249) suggested, intangible feelings and emotions connect to places and material culture are recognised in contemporary academic and policy making discourse, however, only localised study can ensure appropriate identification, protection and preservation of intangible meanings (c.f. James *et al* 2007). As the Contemporary and Competing Vista's project has shown, there is a broad range of intangible perceptions linked to landscapes which were only ascertained because this study involved direct interaction with inhabitants of Wearmouth and Jarrow. Subsequent comparisons between the OMTP landscape survey and the themes identified in this project could emphasize further the diversity and competing nature of localised and research based landscape perceptions. In addition, this comparison could also reassert the value of public perceptions for understanding alternate ways in which landscapes are characterized, experienced, used and understood. There is scope for further investigations of landscape perceptions in Wearmouth and Jarrow which use a wider sample size. This would allow themes which were identified in this project to be explored further, interpretations to be validated and a greater depth of data to be collected. The widening of the sample size and availability of a longer time scale could encourage participants from different religious and cultural backgrounds to participate therefore providing a more representative insight into contemporary perceptions of Wearmouth and Jarrow's landscapes. Mitigation between local authorities and the general public could also ensure that appropriate steps are taken to form frameworks of communication and ways of recording and representing local history in retrospect to the dynamic nature of perceptions in Wearmouth and Jarrow. These strategies could ensure that future interpretation of St Peter's and St Paul's consider the sites in their wider tangible and intangible landscape

contexts. Jimmy Guy the verger of St Paul's commented: 'you'll never value anything until you lose it.' With further research and the establishment of appropriate safeguarding frameworks for the identification of tangible and intangible landscapes; the diverse range of heritages which are important today can be protected for future generations.

It is important that this project and its findings are appropriately disseminated to a local and wider audience as outlined in objectives v and vi (i.e. Section 1.6. p. 36). As proposed in Chapter 2 (i.e. Section 2.4. pp.52 - 54) posters will be displayed at local exhibitions at Bede's World, St Peters and St Pauls in September 2011. This project has been presented to a wider audience in the 2011 Oral History and Regeneration conference and will also be presented to local audiences in conjunction with the dissemination of the OMTP landscape study. It is also intended that this project will be published as a chapter within the OMTP monograph. A summary of this project will also be produced for the OMTP website and in paper format at Newcastle and Durham universities. Endeavours will also be made to publish a paper in an appropriate journal.

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