

Planning workshop

On September 2nd and 3rd 2021 the “**Planning workshop: New perspectives for Old Cultural Landscapes – Integration of Historical Cultural Landscapes into Current Planning**” was realised. The workshop is one of the measures described in the Action Plan NRW. It was organised by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (Regional council Westphalia Lippe), stakeholder of UL2L, in cooperation with the LVR and the Nature and Environment Protection Academy North Rhine Westphalia (NUA NRW). 8 speakers and 18 participants with different backgrounds, e.g. members of landscape planning bureaus, NGOs or nature conservation authorities, attended.

Landscape planning faces different challenges as increasing competition for areas and an increasing demand for multifunctional spaces. When authorities develop areas and establish landscape plans, it may be important to consider historically grown structures in the landscape and to integrate these into plans. To ensure the consideration of historic cultural elements, planners have to be sensitised to the problems and become acquainted with methods and existing expert portals for investigation. The workshop aimed to teach integrating the protection of historical cultural landscapes in current planning processes.

On the first day, the workshop imparted extensive knowledge about historic cultural landscape and historic cultural elements in landscape. Their significance was highlighted, threads were explained and the conservation of historic elements in future planning was discussed. Regarding regional planning, there was a huge focus on the integration of historic cultural elements in planning processes, especially considering the landscape plan as the central planning instrument on community level. Good practice examples substantiated the theoretical input. On a 5 km walk through the cultural landscape in Oberveischede, the participants could explore and try to “read” the landscape, as several cultural landscape elements, e.g. hallow-ways, relicts of charcoal piles and wayside crosses, were presented.

On the second day, methods of registration and assessment of historic structures were focused. In a practice-oriented session (business game), the theoretical input was applied and the participants were led through a discussion on the implementation in the landscape plan.

The aim of sensitising planners to historically valuable landscape structures and making them learn about possibilities for integrating these into current planning was certainly accomplished.