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Book Information

The Living Landscape How To Read And Understand It by Patrick Whitefield

The knowledge of reading the landscape brings us within it... In his clear and accessible style, Patrick offers the reader not just the breadth of his knowledge but the first steps on a journey to become part of our landscape again.

From the Foreword by Ben Law (as seen on Channel 4's Grand Design series)

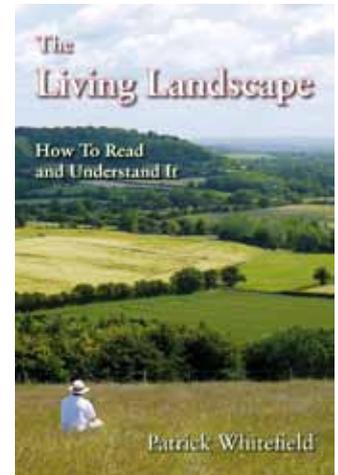
Being able to 'read' the landscape whilst on a walk makes a huge difference. It is like suddenly seeing the world in colour after being used to a lifetime of black and white.

The Living Landscape looks in detail at landscape formation: from rocks, through soil to vegetation and the intricate web of interactions between plants, animals, climate and the people that makes the landscape around us.

Each chapter is interspersed with diagrams, sketches and notes that Patrick has taken over two decades of living and working in the countryside.

Patrick Whitefield, shares a lifetime's knowledge about the myriad interactions that go to make up the fascinating and varied landscapes we see all around us. Whitefield will inspire you to reconnect with the land as a living entity, not a collection of different scenery, and develop an active relationship with nature and the countryside. This book invites you to actively engage with nature and experience it first hand.

Understanding how landscapes evolves is a useful skill for landscape designers, farmers, gardeners and smallholders but it is also a life-enhancing skill all of us can enjoy. Patrick offers us the enduring pleasure that costs nothing and yet offers everything.



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The Sustainability Centre
East Meon, Hampshire GU32 1HR
Tel: 01730 823 311
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What people are saying about Living Landscape

I've only read the first two chapters so far and am absolutely hooked. It is beautifully written and very easy to read. I think I might just take a few days off and disappear into a comfy chair with it...although it also makes me want to head off on a train journey to do a bit of detective work between chapters!

Brigit Strawbridge on the Green Living Forum

Inspired and revealing. Whitefield has a lovely way of saying something simply. His explanation of the balance between light and shelter for the myriad flora and fauna that depend on ever-changing woodland landscape is as clear a manifesto for woods to be worked as you're likely to read anywhere. That he links woodland to the rest of the landscape adds to the intrigue and gives the book the holistic context that is critical to sustainability today.

Nick Gibbs, Smallwoods

An impressive piece of work, filling a niche where few books exist. Patrick Whitefield shares a lifetime's knowledge about the complex interactions that go to make up the fascinating and varied landscapes we see around us. Even if you think you can read a piece of land pretty well, this book will surprise and fascinate you by delving into the complexity of land in this country and how it has come to be as it is.

Agroforestry News

What a fabulous book - Patrick Whitefield has come up with the goods again! After his excellent *Earth Care Manual*, I figured he'd probably finally run out of gems to share, but not so... This is a must-have book for anyone serious about permaculture and yet it will also be a fascinating & enlightening read for anyone interested at all in the landscape that surrounds us. Thank you again Patrick!

Aranya, permaculture design teacher and author of Permaculture Design: a Step by Step Guide

Patrick shows us how to be a kind of landscape detective, painstakingly uncovering the meaning of signs and indications of past land-use. He gives us pages from his extensive notebooks that he has kept over the years which show actual examples of reading the landscape in a wide range of landscape types. Patrick is always an agreeable travel companion and makes fascinating observations throughout. We have been using Patrick's previous books, *The Earth Care Manual* and *How to Make a Forest Garden* on the Kinsale course [on Permaculture] for the past several years; *The Living Landscape* is another great addition which fills an important niche in permaculture literature. A fascinating and engaging read with great colour photos, it will have to find a place on every designers' bookshelf.

Graham Strouts, www.zone5.org

The book will appeal to a very wide audience of people who feel some connection to the British landscape and who are interested to learn more about it; how they can read it and how they, historically and in the present, interact with it. It feels like the beginning of a journey that will serve me greatly in my permaculture work and will deepen my relationship with the land I live in.

Pippa Johns, Permaculture magazine

The knowledge of reading the landscape brings us within it. In his clear and accessible style, Patrick offers the reader not just the breadth of his knowledge but the first steps on a journey to become part of our landscape again.

From the Foreword by Ben Law, author, woodlander and builder of the famous woodland house

If you are prone to wandering around the countryside, wondering why certain features are a particular shape or how old they are, then this is a book for you.

Countryman

The book opens a door on a new and well-informed way of viewing the landscape, enabling us to interpret what we see. It inspires a desire to nurture nature with our species as an integral part of the whole.

Rhian Hill, Mid-Wales Permaculture Network

Specifically designed to teach us how to read the landscapes which we inhabit and travel through. This book is the fruit of half a lifetime of reading landscapes, and as such it provides a generous short cut to understanding for those of us who are too lazy or too busy to notice what is going on around us.

Simon Fairlie, The Land

Impressive and captivating.

Jeremy Martineau, Country Way

This book invites you to actively engage with nature and experience it first hand. Understanding how landscapes evolve is a useful skill for landscape designers, farmers, gardeners and smallholders but it is also a life-enhancing skill all of us can enjoy.

Walnut Books

When I saw this new book, I jumped at the chance to understand more about the reasons for the nature of the landscape and countryside I see. And I was not disappointed; Patrick Whitefield's substantial book is accessible and absorbing, very readable and informative. I now know much more about 'reading the landscape', and wherever I travel I shall be looking for changes and reasons, and probably boring my wife with a commentary!

Vic Warren, greenstuff.org.uk

What I took away was looking at the land on a holistic level, considering all of the different processes of social and ecological change that contribute to how the land is shaped. I'm a bit of a self-confessed plant geek and sometimes I am so busy looking down at the ground layer that I forget to look up at the or the trees or sky and the weather above my head and think about their role in it all.

Wildheartpermaculture.co.uk

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patrick Whitefield is a British permaculture teacher, designer, and author of *Permaculture in a Nutshell* (1993), *How to Make a Forest Garden* (2002), *The Earth Care Manual* (2004), and *The Living Landscape, How to Read it and Understand it* (2009) and *Tipi Living* (2011). He has been an influential British exponent of the

permaculture movement since 1990, and has appeared in several television programmes, including the BBC's *It's Not Easy Being Green* (2006) and *A Farm for the Future* (2008).

Patrick grew up on a smallholding in Somerset and qualified in agriculture at Shuttleworth College in Bedfordshire. He has experience of farming in Britain, the Middle East and Africa, and has been involved in organic gardening, nature conservation, country crafts and green politics. He offers various permaculture courses at Ragmans Lane Farm, Gloucestershire.

