

## WHAT ARE CONSERVATION AREAS CONSERVING? A CASE STUDY ON CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE UK AND CHINA

Luchuan Deng, Peking University, China. Feng Song, Associate Professor, Peking University, China.

---

### ABSTRACT

*This paper pays particular attention on the objective of conservation areas as a means of urban landscape management, which stands out as an important focus in the discussion of urban heritage conservation. It discovers through the investigation of international consensus that conservation area is used generally for the protection of 'landscape' (or urban landscape). The specific objectives of conservation area depend on the way landscape is interpreted and regarded in certain conservation policies. With detailed case studies on the legal documents considering conservation areas in the UK and China, this paper applies the Conzenian division of urban landscape and unveils how the focus of conservation area could be different on either the town plan, land use or building form. It goes on to explain the cause of this phenomenon and raises several possible explanations: the degree of independence of conservation area system, the governance of conservation areas and the number of cultural relics as well as historic buildings. Keywords: conservation area, landscape, element, legislation.*

---

### INTRODUCTION

It's nearly ninety years after the designation of the earliest historic district (conservation area) around the world in New Orleans, the U.S.A. (Institute of Historic Building Conservation, 2018). Currently the conservation of historic districts has permeated into the urban planning system of almost all of the countries around the world. In the case of the United Kingdom, there are approximately 9866 conservation areas in England, 600 in Scotland, 500 in Wales and 59 in Northern Ireland (Historic Environment Forum, 2018, p.9, Scottish Executive, 2019; Cadw, 2017; Planning Portal, 2019). In China, 875 Chinese historic conservation areas (state-level) and local historic conservation areas form a complex system (National Cultural Heritage Administration, 2019; Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, 2019). Though broadly used, it may still be confusing when considering the objectives of conservation areas: currently, scholars have made cross-culture comparisons on conservation areas, but very limited attentions have been paid towards the differences on what they claim to conserve (Nishimura and Machinamikenkyukai, 2004). Besides, conservation areas in China have never been put under this cross-state comparison--they even have not been studied in detail (Li, 2006). Therefore, it could be important for this paper to deal with this issue by comparing the objectives of conservation areas in the UK and China. The two nations are typical represents for the West and East with abundant collections of urban heritage.

---

### BACKGROUND

Conservation areas originates from the conservation of historic buildings, which have derived from ancient monument preservation. In the course of history the objectives of conservation areas developed from the protection of elusive 'settings' to the 'protection of landscape'. In the earliest documents, conservation is referred to the protection of historic monuments and their 'settings' (The Venice Charter, 1964). The 1975 European Charter of Architectural Heritage (ECAH, ICOMOS, 1975) distinguished the conservation of ancient monument from historic building. Thus an independent system of building and region conservation was initiated which went different from the system protecting ancient monuments. In addition, conservation areas and 'historic building' conservation system got differentiated by the Granada Convention (1985), in which the objective of conservation area was, for the first time, claimed to be 'groups of buildings' and 'sites'. The 'sites' here takes the meaning as areas that are 'distinctive and homogeneous to be topographically definable' that 'are of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest'. The objective of conservation areas did not stop evolving but further grew to include almost everything in the built

environment. In the European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, 2000), conservation areas are described as to protect all forms of 'landscape'.

Becoming the object of protection in conservation areas, the connotations of 'landscape' gain their importance when regarding to practice. Landscape, according to the European Landscape Convention, is defined as 'area perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'. It is also considered as physical existence by Relph (2016) and as visual form by Morin (2006). In practice, the multi-facet nature of landscape the conception helps to generate a multi-objective approach (Kangas et al, 2003), since local governments may not be able to look after everything that is thought to be a part of landscape at the same time. Therefore they choose to protect from their own understanding of 'landscape' (Relph, 2016).

With this regard, it could be essential to consider how the word 'landscape', or urban landscape<sup>1</sup>, could be understood. This leads to the issue of the 'elements' of landscape (that could be perceived/understood), which, as a much recent academic creation, have not been fully discussed. Even though researches over the nature, creation and definition of landscape have gone through almost a hundred years (Gregory, 2009; Antrop, 2013), the consisting elements of landscape have only been raised by planners, urban morphologists and architects in recent years and there have not been a widely acknowledged conclusion over how landscape could be divided. Architects like Caniggia have divided landscape into materials, structures, rooms, buildings, tissues, quarters and towns (Cataldi, 2003). Urban planners, for example Lynch (1960), have identified landscape elements based on people's perception as paths, edges, districts, nodes and landmarks. Urban morphologists and geographer Conzen (1960) has made a more general categorization dividing landscape into building form, town plan and land use. Conzen's conception have a closer relation to the conservation planning practice, which is naturally not limited to design's own business but considers the layout and usage of landscape.

---

## METHODOLOGY AND MATERIAL

The paper applies Conzenian division of landscape as building form, town plan and land use as reference to the governmental criteria of British and Chinese conservation areas. The decision to use Conzen's conception is due to practical consideration in making comparison between east and west, considering the cultural differences in various aspects. Dividing landscape into building form, town plan and land use is general enough so that concise comparison could be made: both British and Chinese authorities have to choose one or more elements among the three of them. Therefore, this paper could unveil whether different degree of attention is paid on the three elements of landscape.

The research subject is narrowed only to those regional conservation policies that are literally named as 'conservation areas'. Therefore, listed buildings, ancient monuments, areas of archaeological importance and the like are not the focus of this study. As for the method, since this paper takes conservation area as a public policy, it applies applications-oriented analysis adopted in the field of policy studies (Dunn, 2016).

The material of this paper is legislative documents of the UK and China on conservation areas. Beside National laws, the paper investigates departmental regulations and detailed institutional guidance respectively. It has chosen the former Planning Policy Guidance 15 (Department of National Heritage, 2002)<sup>2</sup>, the Historic England Advice Note 1 (Historic England, 2019) in the UK (England) and the Regulations on the Protection of historic cities, towns and villages (Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the PRC, 2008 and 2014) as well as the Code of Conservation Planning for Historic Cities (the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the PRC, 2018) in China.

---

<sup>1</sup> There has not been an entry for 'urban landscape' in the *dictionary of Human Geography*, thus this paper is making no distinction between the conception 'landscape' and 'urban landscape'.

<sup>2</sup> Changes have been made to this guidance and the department in charge is no longer the Department of National Heritage..

---

## CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE UK AND CHINA

Conservation Areas in the UK and China have rather similar governing system. In the UK, conservation areas are created for the first time by the 1967 Civic Amenities Act (The UK Parliament, 1967). The currently effective Act on conservation areas is namely the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act. It identifies areas of 'special architectural or historic interest' as those need conservation. Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DfDCMS, in England) and national governments (in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) are legally and nominally responsible for the management of conservation areas. In practice, however, semi-independent conservation bodies in these states (Historic England, Cadw, Historic Environment Scotland and institutions in Northern Ireland) register and offer advice on the conservation areas designated by local governments of unitary authorities or shires.

In China, the National legislation on conservation areas is made in the 1997 amendment to the 1982 Law of the PRC on Cultural Relics Protection (The National People's Congress of PRC, 1982; Zhu, 2007), which manages conservation areas (历史文化街区), historic cities/towns/villages (历史文化名城、名镇、名村) and the officially protected monuments and sites (文物保护单位) at the same time. Regarding to conservation areas, the 1982 Law requires the 'abundance of survival monuments and cultural relics' or the 'historic significance and commemorative significance on the Chinese revolution'. Different from the British acts, the 1982 Law does not require much on the character of conservation area and focus mainly on the historic monuments. Legally, Chinese conservation areas are designated by provincial governments, which is similar to the practice in the UK, but there is no semi-independent institutions managing conservation areas other than National departments, often the National Cultural Heritage Administration (国家文物局) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (住房和城乡建设部).

---

## LANDSCAPE IN BRITISH AND CHINESE CONSERVATION AREAS

The paper studies how British and Chinese authorities identify and control the character of conservation areas and therefore consider what part of the landscape has received more attention in this process. Regulations and guidance in the two countries provide information on this subject.

The set of criteria applied in the UK National Act, the PPG 15 and the Advice Note 1 on conservation areas are listed below (Table 1). Together they show which part of landscape is more likely to be stressed in the UK. Generally, town plan is regarded to be more important either in identifying and controlling conservation areas, except in the 1990 Act. The PPG 15 and Advice Note.1 have more clauses on town plan. However, the 1990 Act considers only the building form. Therefore the general acts on conservation areas in the UK (England) pays attention solely on building form. But when going from general acts to detailed guidance, a growing emphasis on town plan can be seen: the ratio between number and length of entries on town plan and on building form is always larger in Advice Note 1 than in PPG 15. Land use is also noticed in the British conservation areas, though with a relatively small portion.

**Table 1 The emphasized element of landscape in different entries of the criteria of conservation areas in national act/law, departmental regulation and specific institutional guidance in the UK. Data source: the UK Parliament,1990; the Department of National Heritage, 2002; Historic England, 2019.**

| <i>Documents</i>   | <i>Content</i>        | <i>Criteria</i>  | <i>The emphasized element of landscape</i> |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| <i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i> | <i>Identification</i> | <i>Areas of special architectural or historic interest; The character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.</i> | <i>Building form</i>                       |
|  | <i>Control</i>        | <i>The demolition in conservation areas; The conservation area consent.</i>  | <i>Building form</i>                       |
|  | <i>Identification</i> | <i>Characteristic building materials;</i>  | <i>Building form</i>                       |

|   |                |  |               |
|---|----------------|--|---------------|
| Planning Policy Guidance 15   |                | Appropriate scaling and detailing of contemporary buildings;<br>Quality of advertisements, shop fronts, street furniture and hard and soft surfaces;<br>The archaeological significance and potential.   |               |
|   |                | Historic layout of property boundaries;<br>Vistas along streets and between buildings;<br>The extent to which traffic intrudes and limits pedestrian use of spaces between buildings;<br>The character and hierarchy of spaces;<br>The quality and relationship of buildings in the area and also of trees and other contribution.   | Town plan     |
|   |                | Particular 'mix' of uses.  | Land use      |
|   | Control        | Control the demolition of most buildings within conservation areas;<br>Retain buildings which make positive contributions to the character or appearance;<br>Control the demolition of part of a building and promote routine works of repair.   | Building form |
|   |                | Control outdoor advertisements affect the appearance of the building or the neighborhood;<br>Protect trees and woodlands in the interests of amenity by making tree preservation orders;   | Town plan     |
| Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 | Identification | Area with a high number of nationally or locally designated heritage assets and a variety of architectural style and historic associations;<br>Where a particular style of architecture or traditional building materials predominate.   | Building form |
|   |                | Where an earlier, historically significant, layout is visible in the modern street pattern;<br>The quality of the public realm or a spatial element, such as a design form or settlement pattern, green spaces which area an essential component of a wider historic area, and historic parks and gardens and other designed landscapes;<br>Designation made solely for protection of veteran trees. | Town plan     |
|   |                | Those linked to a particular individual, industry, custom or pastime with a particular local interest.   | Land use (?)  |
|   | Control        | Control applications involving demolition and replacement of, alteration and extension to historic buildings;<br>Support applications retaining key features and bringing them into their optimum viable use.  | Building form |
|   |                | Protect important views and vistas;<br>Establish urban design strategy for securing good design quality in new development;<br>Bring forward guide beneficial development of gap sites or sites currently detracting from the area's character or appearance   | Town plan     |
|   |                | Evaluate archaeological interest;<br>Protect uses that contribute to the character or historic or architectural interest.  | Land use      |
|   |                |  |               |

The set of criteria applied in the Chinese 1982 Law, the Regulations on the Protection of historic cities, towns and villages and the Code of Conservation Planning for Historic Cities on conservation areas are listed in Table 2. These regulations or guidance make detailed requirements to the identification, designation and destruction control of conservation areas, in which the building form, basically the conservation of ancient monument, is particularly stressed.

**Table 2 The emphasized element of landscape in different entries of the criteria of conservation areas in national act/law, departmental regulation and specific institutional guidance in China. Data source: The National People's Congress of the PRC, 1982; the Central People's Government of the PRC, 2008; Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the PRC, 2018.**

| Documents   | Content        | Criteria  | The emphasized element of landscape |
|---|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Law of the People's Republic of China on Cultural Relics Protection | Identification | The abundance of survival monuments and cultural relics.                                | Building form                       |
|   |                | Historic significance and commemorative significance on the Chinese revolution          | Land use (?)                        |
|   | Control        | The protection plan of historic conservation areas as a part of the cities' master plan | -                                   |

|   |                       |  |                      |
|---|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| <i>Regulations on the Protection of historic cities, towns and villages</i> | <i>Identification</i> | <i>The abundance of survival monuments and cultural relics;<br/>Concentrated blocks of historic buildings;</i>   | <i>Building form</i> |
|   |                       | <i>Regions that could show with integrity and authenticity of the traditional layout and historic character;<br/>Certain spatial scale.</i>  | <i>Town plan</i>     |
|   | <i>Control</i>        | <i>Construction and extension of new buildings and structures in the historic conservation area, including the core region<sup>3</sup> and control zone;<br/>The height, scale, façade and color of existing buildings and structures in the historic conservation area;<br/>Extension and demolition to existing architectures except infrastructure;</i>                                   | <i>Building form</i> |
|   |                       | <i>Signs of the core region of historic conservation areas.</i>  | <i>Town plan</i>     |
|   |                       | <i>The firefighting deices in the historic conservation areas.</i>   | <i>Land use</i>      |
| <i>Code of Conservation Planning for Historic Cities</i>                    | <i>Identification</i> | <i>The historic buildings and environment that have survived through the history;<br/>The total percentage of landmass of officially protected monuments and sites, listed unmovable cultural relics, historic buildings and architecture with traditional character should be larger than 60% of the total landmass of architectures in the core region of historic conservation areas.</i> | <i>Building form</i> |
|   |                       | <i>Integrity on historic character;<br/>The core region should be larger than 1hm2.</i>  | <i>Town plan</i>     |
|   | <i>Control</i>        | <i>Protection and rehabilitation after the categorization of architectures and structures in historic conservation areas; in the core region, there should be control over the height, scale, façade, color and material of architectures; in the control zone, there should be control over the height, scale and color of architectures.</i>   | <i>Building form</i> |
|   |                       | <i>Protection on the historic streets, blocks and the periphery of historic conservation areas;<br/>The green space and plants in the historic conservation area.</i>  | <i>Town plan</i>     |
|   |                       | <i>Enhancement on the living quality, vitality and traditional culture of the historic conservation areas.</i>   | <i>Land use</i>      |

In China's 1982 Law there could be observed a particular attention on ancient monuments in regulations on conservation areas, which has never been observed in the UK. This reveals the fact that in China, there has not been a clear distinction between the conservation of historic monument and the conservation of general urban landscape. Similarly, the boundary between historic building preservation and conservation area is also unclear, as it could be fairly easy to see a great amount of entries on historic building (and other types of building form) even in detailed regulations and guidance. In fact, building form takes a very large extent as the most stressed element in urban environment in entries on building form in either identifying conservation area or controlling demolition in conservation area. Therefore, the Chinese system of conservation area puts much more effort on the conservation of ancient monument and building form, rather than town plan or land use as applied in the British laws.

Comparing the conservation areas in China and the UK, it could be clear to see that they emphasize different elements in the built environment. The UK or English authority considers building form and town plan with nearly the same weight in conservation areas; the Chinese authority, however, puts building form, along with ancient monument, over town plan and land use. Therefore, this paper concludes that the conservation area in China has a strong inclination to view urban landscape as the patchwork of ancient monument and cultural relics that is nowhere to be found in the British conservation area system. Land use and more importantly, town plan, are ignored in Chinese conservation areas.

---

## CONCLUSIONS

<sup>3</sup> Historic conservation areas are divided into two parts: the core region and the control zone. The core region shows the most important part of the conservation area that needs preservation and enhancement, while the control zone acts as the periphery of the core region in order to protect the overall landscape (the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the PRC, 2018). Therefore, there are two sub-regions with different intensity of regulation inside historic conservation area.

This paper discovers the different objectives conservation areas in the UK and China take on conserving urban landscape. The British and Chinese conservation areas pay different attention to certain elements of landscape: building form, town plan and land use.

This paper is thinking to explain the different emphasis on the elements of landscape in the UK and China from the perspective of the legislation and governance system. In the UK, three complete and independent legislative systems on the conservation of ancient monument, listed building and conservation area have already been created. In China, however, only the conservation of ancient monument has formed a complete system, while the conservation of historic building and conservation area stay as the affiliations of it (Table 3). In this case, the British authorities could be able to deal with the distinct nature of different sub-types of conservation approaches so that they can have different focus on the elements of landscape. As for the incomplete system of conservation areas in China, they have to be subject to the focus of ancient monument conservation since there is no other well-matured sub-types of conservation approaches.

**Table 3 The important legal documents considering cultural relics and historic cities or conservation areas in China before 2010. Data source: The Central People's Government of the PRC; Shen, 2006 and Xu, 2018<sup>4</sup>.**

| Year | The protection on ancient monument (cultural relics)  |   | The protection on historic conservation areas |   |
|------|---|---|---|---|
|      | Institution   | Important legal documents   | Institution                                   | Important legal documents   |
| 1956 | The Central People's Government of the PRC  | Circular on the Protection of Cultural relics in Agricultural production and Construction   |   |   |
| 1961 | The Central People's Government of the PRC  | List of the first batch of officially protected monuments and sites (OPMS)<br>Interim regulations on the Protection and Administration of Cultural relics   |   |   |
| 1963 | [Ministry of Culture]   | Interim measures on the Protection and Administration of OPMS<br>Measures for the interim Administration of Revolutionary Memorial buildings, Historical Memorial buildings, Ancient buildings and Grottoes |   |   |
| 1980 | The Central People's Government of the PRC;<br>[State Administration of Cultural relics];<br>[National Capital Construction Commission] | Request report on strengthening the Protection and Management of Ancient architectures, Cultural relics and Monuments   |   |   |
| 1982 | The National People's Congress of the PRC   | Law of the People's Republic of China on Cultural Relics Protection   |   |   |
| 1985 |   |   | [Ministry of Construction]                    | Proposal for the establishment of 'historic traditional district'   |
| 1997 |   |   | [Ministry of Construction]                    | Interim measures for the Protection and Administration of Tunxi Laojie historic conservation area in Huangshan City |
| 2003 | National Cultural Heritage Administration   | Measures for the compilation, examination and approval of Protection  |   |   |

<sup>4</sup> Some of the departments and ministries inside '['] are former agencies of the national government that have been abolished.

|      |  |  |   |   |
|------|--|--|---|---|
|      |  | <i>Plans for State-level OPMS Requirements for the compilation of Protection Plan for State-level OPMS</i> |   |   |
| 2004 |  |  | [Ministry of Construction]                        | <i>Measures for the Administration of Purple Line in cities</i>             |
| 2008 |  |  | <i>The Central People's Government of the PRC</i> | <i>Regulations on the Protection of historic cities, towns and villages</i> |

The difference on the governance of conservation areas in the UK and China also count for the distinct emphasis on the three elements of landscape. The British conservation areas are managed solely by semi-independent institutions such as Historic England (with little intervention from the Department) so that the Advice Note 1 could offer very detailed requirements and suggestions that fit the nature of conservation areas. This is not to claim that the British regulations on conservation areas are the most proper choice for conserving landscape, but to show how the Chinese regulations may not be suitable for regional conservation. The Chinese conservation issues are given to two national departments: the National Cultural Heritage Administration (culture authority) and Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (planning authority). Different from ancient monuments and historic cities/towns and villages, conservation areas, being an affiliated approach of historic cities, towns and villages, never find their place in the two-department governance system. Neither culture authority nor planning authority has ever made clear and detailed regulations on conservation areas, causing the focus on building form and even ancient monument overwhelmed the attention that should have been paid on town plan and land use.

Finally, the fact that there are a lot more ancient monuments in China than in the UK explain the inclination on ancient monuments. With a much longer history and the conception of history that ancient monuments containing traditional Chinese culture are more valuable than modern historic buildings (that may reflect the 'humiliating century of being colonized'), there is no doubt that more attention is paid on ancient monuments. Therefore, the regulations on conservation areas have no other choices but to simulate that of the system of cultural relic/monument protection.

This paper discovers the different interpretations of landscape in the British and Chinese conservation areas and tries to explain the cause. However, the explanations are hypothesis and need quantitative proof or more descriptive evidences. Therefore, there should be further research and evidence to bring more solid conclusions on this issue.

---

## REFERENCES

- Antrop, M. (2013) A brief history of landscape research, in *The Routledge companion to landscape studies*, Routledge: pp.30-40.
- Briney, A. (2019) The Importance of Historic Preservation, ThoughtCo, available at [www.thoughtco.com/historic-preservation-and-urban-planning-1435784](http://www.thoughtco.com/historic-preservation-and-urban-planning-1435784).
- Cadw (2017) *Managing Conservation Areas in Wales* (Cardiff: Cadw).
- Cataldi, G. (2003) From Muratori to Caniggia: the origins and development of the Italian school of design typology, *Urban Morphology*, 7(1), pp. 19-34.
- Conzen, M.R.G. (1960) *Alnwick, Northumberland: A Study in Town-Plan Analysis*, Institute of British Geographers, No.27 (George Philip, London).
- Council of Europe (1985) *Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe*, (Granada).
- Council of Europe (1975) *European Charter of the Architectural Heritage*, ICOMOS.
- Council of Europe (2000) *European Landscape Convention* (Florence).
- Department of National Heritage (2002) *Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and historic environment*, London, available on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

- Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (2018) *Principles of Selection for Listed Buildings*, London, available on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).
- Dunn, W. N. (2016) *Public Policy Analysis*, Abingdon: Routledge, pp.1-34.
- First International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments (1931) The Athens Charter for the Restoration of Historic Monuments, ICOMOS.
- Gregory, D. (2009) *The dictionary of human geography*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 409-411.
- Historic England (2019) *Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management*, Historic England Advice Note 1, available on [historicengland.org.uk](http://historicengland.org.uk).
- Historic Environment Forum (2018) *Heritage Indicators 2018* (Swindon: Historic England).
- IInd International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments (1964) International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS.
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation. (2018) The history of conservation areas, Conservation Wiki, available at [www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/The\\_history\\_of\\_conservation\\_areas](http://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/The_history_of_conservation_areas).
- Kangas, J.; Store, R.; Kangas, A. (2005) Socioecological landscape planning approach and multicriteria acceptability analysis in multiple-purpose forest management. *Policy Econ*, 7(4):pp. 603-614.
- Li, H. (2006) The Governance Research of Urban Historic Environment in Urban Renewal Period (published Ph.D thesis), Shanghai: Tongji University. (李宏利. 城市更新中历史环境的管治研究[D].同济大学,2006.)
- Lynch, K. (1960) *The Image of the City* (Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press), pp. 46-48.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of People's Republic of China (2018) *Code of Conservation Planning for Historic Cities*, Beijing: China Architecture Publishing & Media Co., Ltd. (中华人民共和国住房和城乡建设部. 历史文化名城保护规划规范. 北京: 中国建筑工业出版社, 2018)
- Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2019) *National Planning Policy Framework*, UK: APS Group on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
- Morin, K.M. (2006) Landscape and Environment: Representing and Interpreting the World, in Holloway, S.L.; Rice, S.P.; Valentine, G. (2006) *Key Concepts in Geography*, Gateshead: Tyne & Wear, pp. 319-322.
- National Cultural Heritage Administration (2019) List of Chinese Historic Cities, Beijing, available at [gl.sach.gov.cn](http://gl.sach.gov.cn). (国家文物局. 中国历史文化名城名录. 北京: 国家文物局门户网站gl.sach.gov.cn.)
- Nishimura, Y. and Machinamikenyukai. (2004) *Conservation Planning for Urban Landscape in the Western Countries*, translated by Zhang, S. and Cai, D., Shanghai: Shanghai Scientific & Technical Publishers. (西村幸夫+历史街区研究会. 编著. 张松,蔡敦达. 译. 城市风景规划——欧美景观规划控制方法与实务[M]上海:上海科学技术出版社, 2004.)
- Planning Portal (2019) *Conservation area guides (Northern Ireland)*, available at [www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning\\_statements\\_and\\_supplementary\\_planning\\_guidance/conservation](http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning_statements_and_supplementary_planning_guidance/conservation), accessed 11 October 2019.
- Relph, E. (1987) *The Modern Urban Landscape*, edition published in 2016, Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 5-10.
- Scottish Executive, Development Department (2019) *A Guide to Conservation Areas in Scotland*, available at [www2.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/37428/0009675.pdf](http://www2.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/37428/0009675.pdf)
- Shen, H. (2006) Research on the Urban Heritage Conservation: in the View of 'Collective Choice' (published Ph.D thesis), Shanghai: Tongji University. (沈海虹. '集体选择'视野下的城市遗产保护研究[D].同济大学,2006.)
- The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China (2008) *Regulations on the Protection of historic cities, towns and villages*, Beijing, available on [www.gov.cn](http://www.gov.cn). (中华人民共和国中央人民政府. 历史文化名城名镇名村保护条例. 北京:中央政府门户网站www.gov.cn, 2008).
- The National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (1982) *Law of the People's Republic of China on Cultural Relics Protection*, Beijing, available on [www.npc.gov.cn](http://www.npc.gov.cn). (全国人民代表大会. 中华人民共和国文物保护法. 北京:中国人大网www.npc.gov.cn, 1982)



The UK Parliament (1967) *Civic Amenities Act*, London, available on [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk).

The UK Parliament (1990) *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act*, London, available on [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk).

Xu, M. (2018) Research on the Delimitation of the Protection Zones of Cultural Relics Protection Site in Central Urban Areas (published master thesis), Shenyang: Shenyang Jianzhu University. (徐名璐. 城市中心区文保单位保护区划范围的划定研究[D].沈阳建筑大学,2018.)

Zhu, Q. (2007) Historic District Conservation in China: Assessment and Prospects, *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*, 19(1): pp.59-76.

---

#### CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

Feng Song, Associate Professor, College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University, No.5 Yiheyuan Road, Yifu second building, Room 3463, Beijing, 100871, China, [songfeng@urban.pku.edu.cn](mailto:songfeng@urban.pku.edu.cn).