

GEOG3302: Urban and Regional Planning
Wednesday February 1, 2012

The Origins of Urban Planning: Theory & Practice

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Lecture Outline

- Planning Before the Industrial Revolution
- The Impact of Urbanism
- The Seers

Background

- Modern town planning has arisen in response to specific problems triggered off by the 18th C Industrial Revolution.
- These problems came at different times and forms.
- The problems of the 1930s were different from the 1840s.

Planning before the Industrial Revolution

- Important Cities before the Industrial Revolution:
 - Ancient Rome: 800,000 – 1,200,000 ppl (3rd C AD)
 - Elizabethan London: 225,000

Rome

- Water supplied from aqueducts over considerable distances
- Crowded streets

Planning before the Industrial Revolution

London

- Had to draw on coalfields by 14th C for fuel (River Tyne, 270 miles away)
- Depended on distant countries for specialized provisions e.g. spices
- Had to draw water by aqueduct from 35 miles away by 17th C
- Problems brought forth a host of regulations
 - Rome banned chariots at night
 - A man was hang for burning 'sea coal' in 14th C London!!!!!!

The Impact of Industrialism

- No striking effect on urban growth initially
- Textiles and Cotton production brought industries into the open countryside

e.g.

- S. Lancashire or S. Derbyshire (cotton)
- Colne and Calder valleys (wool)



The Impact of Industrialism cont'd

○ ***Coal mining changed everything***

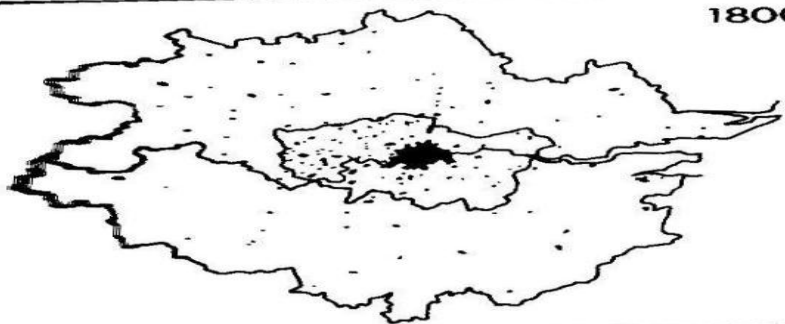
- Became Principal Raw Material for Industry
- Replaced water power in textiles after 1780
- Industries tended to concentrate where supplies were available
- Emergence of *new industrial towns* e.g. Lancashire, Yorkshire and Staffordshire
- Port Towns were just as important (e.g. Liverpool, Hull, Glasgow and London were among the fastest-growing from 1780 onwards).

Impact of Industrialism cont'd

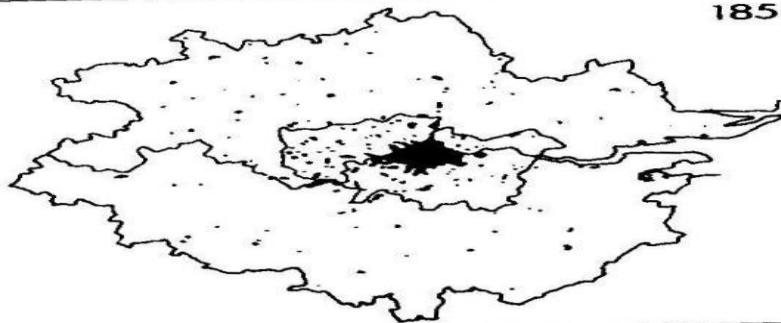
- Emerging social and economic problems
 - Rapid growth of new and established towns
 - Lancashire: 15,000 (1801); 44,000 (1851); 83,000 (1901)
 - London : 1 mil (1801); 2 mil (1851); 4 mil (1881); 6.5 mil (1911)
- Massive rural-urban migration
- (Irish flooded Manchester after the failure of the Potato Harvest in 1845-46)
- Problems in terms of shelter, water and waste disposal or for health treatment.

THE ORIGINS: 1800-1940

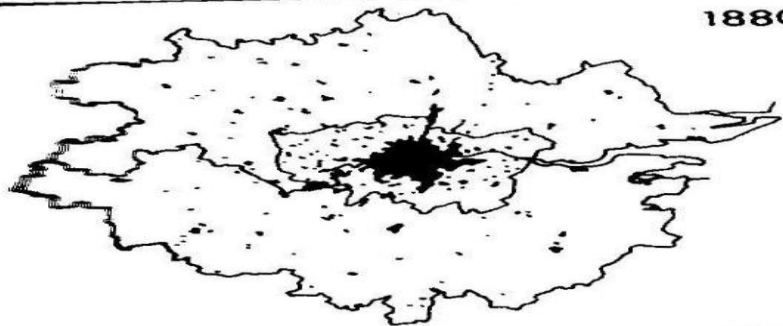
1800



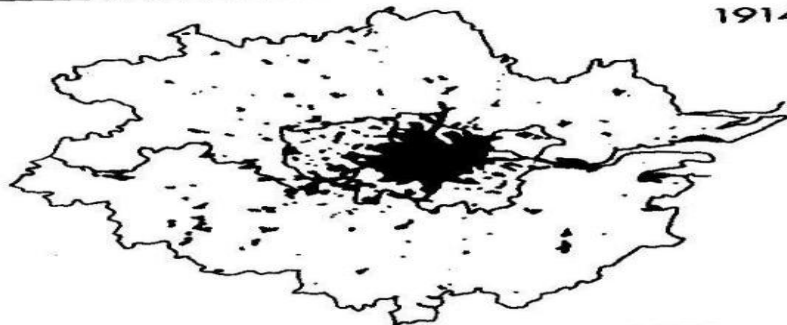
1850



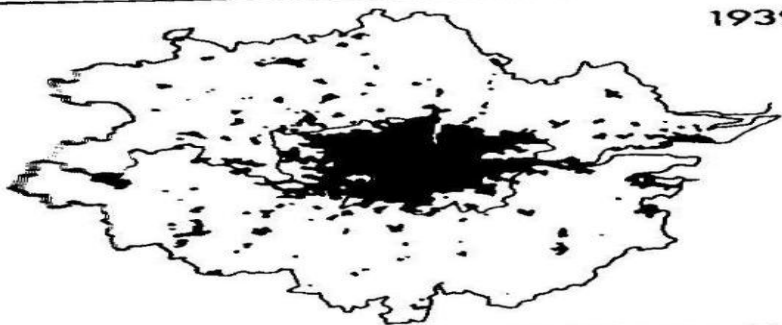
1880



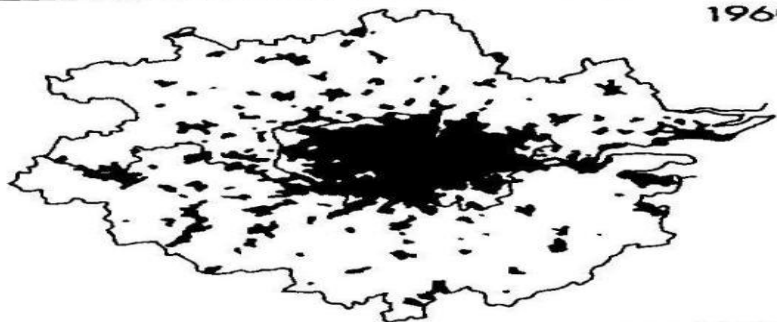
1914



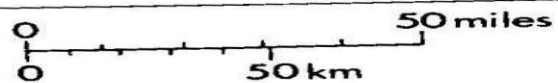
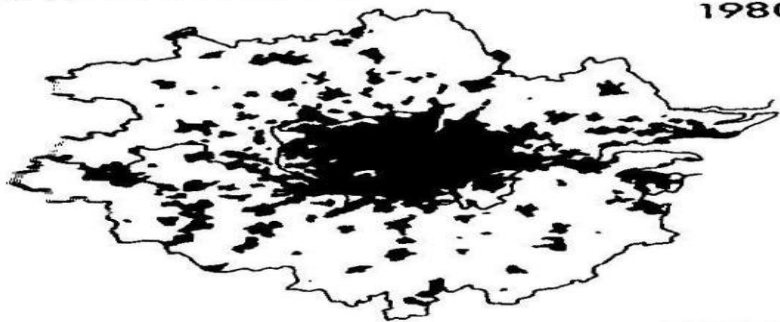
1939



1960



1980



Impact of Industrialism cont'd

- Towns had only the most elementary arrangements
- Overwhelmed by the influx
- Polluted wells from sewage
- Improper waste disposal
- High Pop. Densities
- Poor personal hygiene
- Lack of public health system
- Cholera epidemics that swept Britain (1832, 1848, and 1866)



The Impact of Industrialism cont'd

- Reactions to the problems
 - Royal Commission on the State of Large Towns (1844) recommended the creation of a single public health authority in each local area and standardization of building regulations
 - Public Health Act of 1848
 - The Nuisance Removal Act of 1855
 - The Sanitary Act of 1866

The Impact of Industrialism cont'd

- Torrens Acts (from 1868) : allowed local authorities to compel owners of insanitary dwellings to demolish or repair them.
- Cross Acts (from 1875): allowed local authorities to prepare improvement schemes for slum areas.

The Impact of Industrialism cont'd

- Public Health Act (1875)
 - Most comprehensive
 - Fundamental reform of local government in England & Wales
 - Country was divided into urban and rural sanitary districts
 - Supervised by a central government department (The Local Government Board)

- Responsibilities were broadened after

The Impact of Industrialism cont'd

- Emergence of 'by-law' housing (1830-70s)
 - High density homes
 - Uniform terraces or rows of two-storey housing
 - Mostly bricks
 - Streets have a uniform minimum width (guarantee a modicum of air and light)
 - Each house had a separate external lavatory w/t access to back alley; necessary for the emptying of earth closets

- Most of these houses have been upgraded since the 1970s

The Seers

- Trace the evolution of Britain's urban problems from the dawn of the Industrial Revolution to the start of WWII
- Many attempts at solving real and practical problems often by central and local admin.
- No less important was the writings of thinkers

The Seers cont'd

- Town planning as physical planning and design
 - Town planning as physical planning
 - Design as central to town planning
 - The production of master plans/blueprints

The Seers cont'd

- Pioneer Thinkers in urban planning (1880-1945)
- The Anglo-American tradition
 - Ebenezer Howard
 - Unwin and Parker
 - Perry, Stein and Tripp
 - Geddes and Abercrombie
 - Frank Lloyd Wright
- The European Tradition
 - Le Corbusier
 - Soria y Mata

The Anglo-American Tradition

- Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928)
 - Garden Cities of Tomorrow (1902)
 - The new-town movement emerged from this
 - Wasn't a professional planner; short-hand writer in the law courts
- Used to travel to the US as a young man during its period of rapid urban growth

Ebenezer Howard

- Influenced by the work of several pioneer industrialists:

The two earliest examples:

- Robert Owen's celebrated experimental settlement at New Lanark in Scotland (1800-10)
- Titus Salt's towns built around his textile mill at Saltaire near Bradford (1853-63)

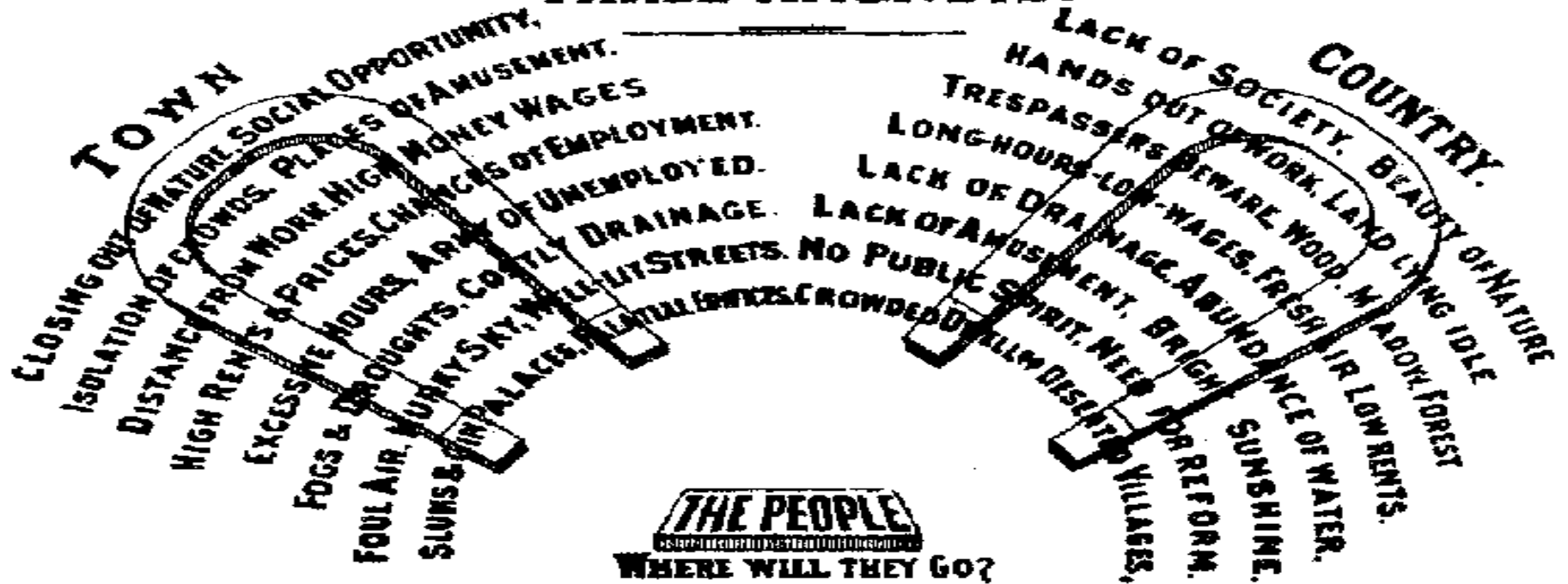
Late 19th C:

- Bournville outside Birmingham (1879-95), built by the chocolate manufacturer George Cadbury

Ebenezer Howard

- Industry was decentralized away from the city in all examples
- A new town was built around a decentralized plant
- Howard broadened the idea and applied to a more general and planned movement of people and industry away from cities

THE THREE MAGNETS

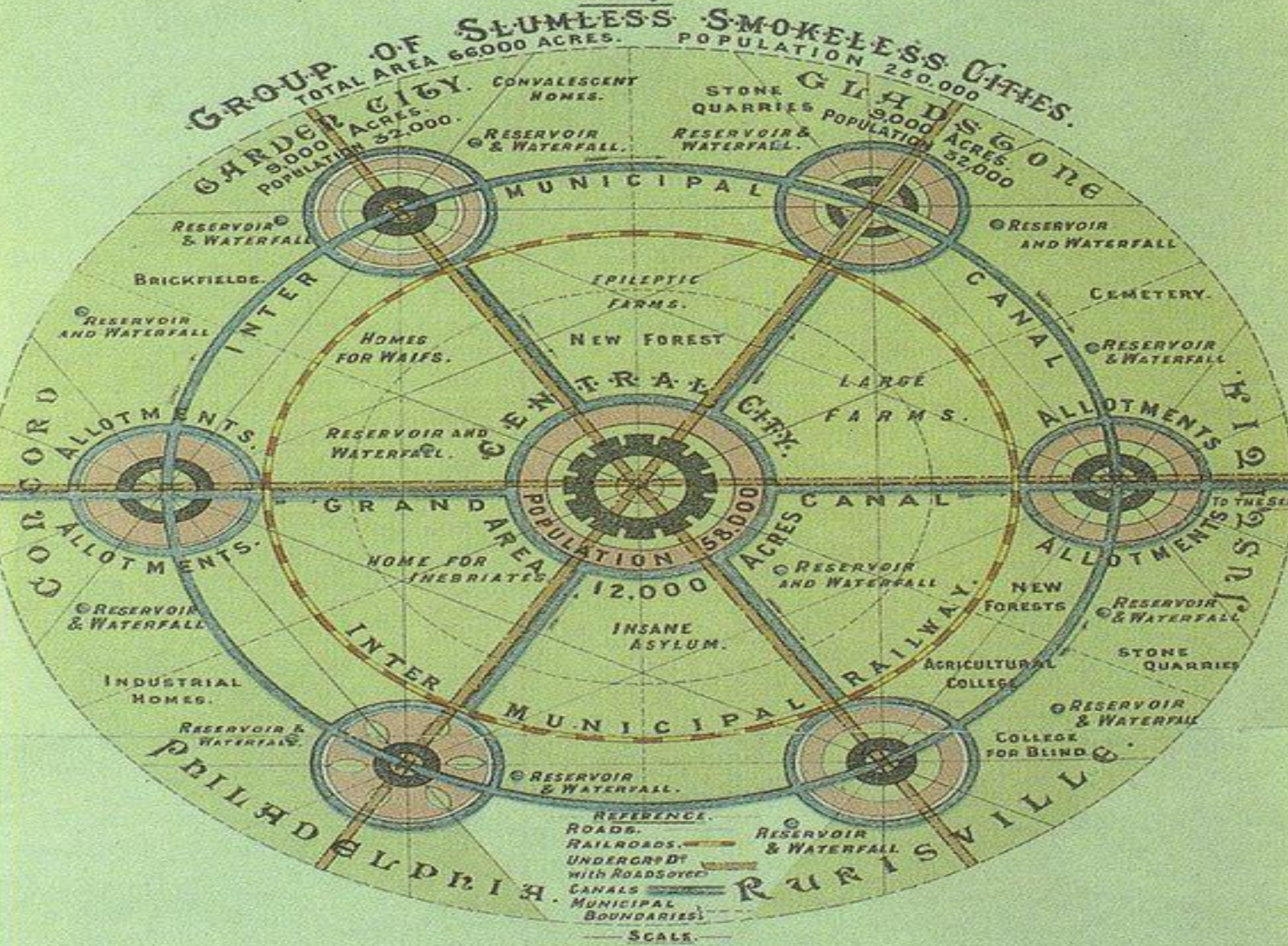


Ebenezer Howard

- The Garden City/Town-Country:
 - Combined with the advantages of Town and Country but none of their disadvantages
 - Outside the normal commuter range of the old city
 - Fairly small (30,000) and surrounded by a large green belt
 - Accessible by everyone

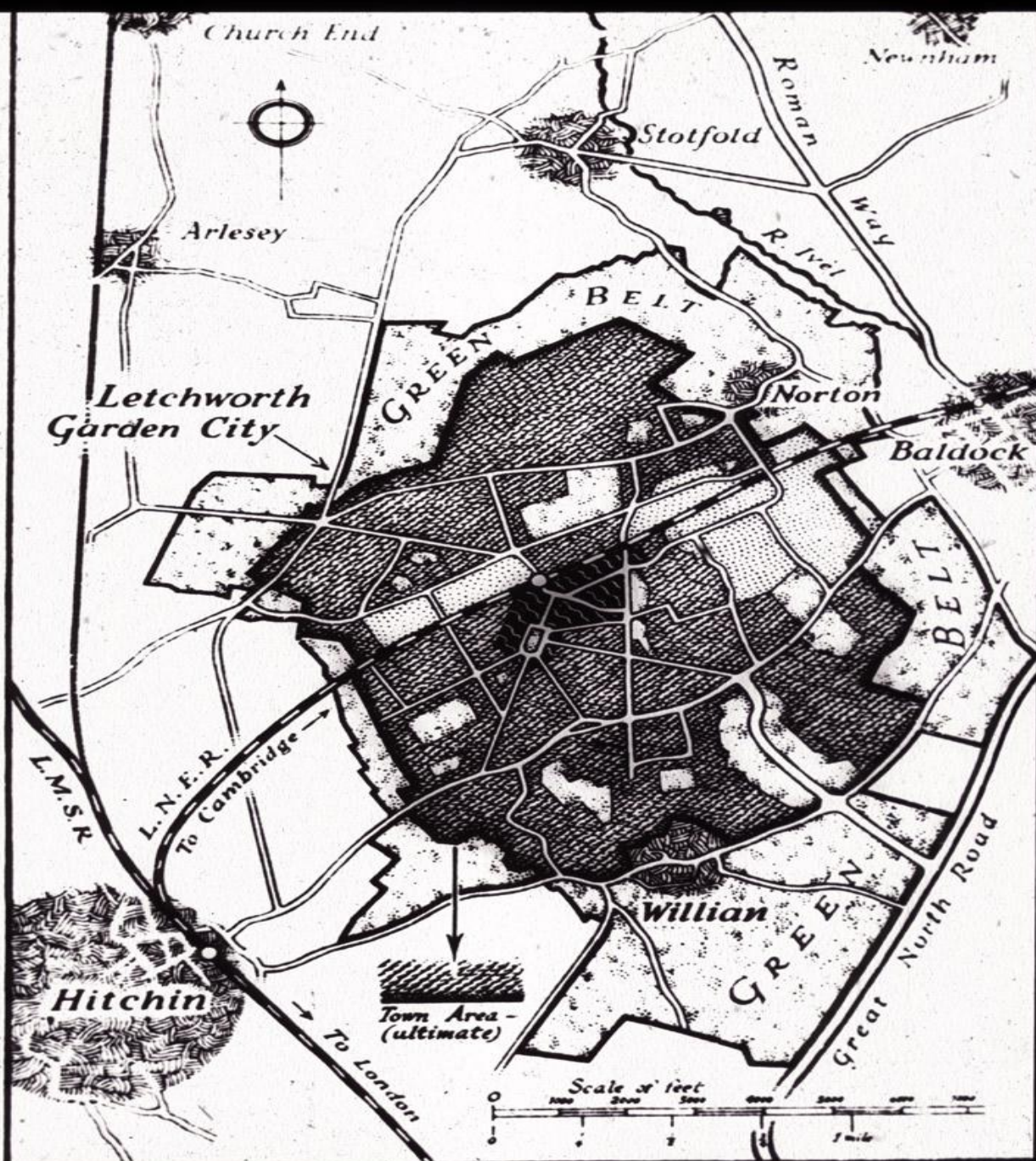
Town and country must be married, and out of this joyous union will spring a new hope, a new life, a new civilization (Howard 1898)

GROUP OF SLUMLESS, SMOKELESS CITIES.



Unwin and Parker

- Raymond Unwin (1863-1940) and Barry Parker (1867-1947)
- Two Architects
- Developed some of Howard' s Ideas
- Designed the first Garden City (Letchworth)



Letchworth Garden City

Unwin and Parker

- Together the two architects developed some interesting modifications
- 'Nothing Gained by Overcrowding' Unwin (1912)
- Argued for the construction of lower density homes
- Pointed out how high density homes still detracted from the use of public open spaces

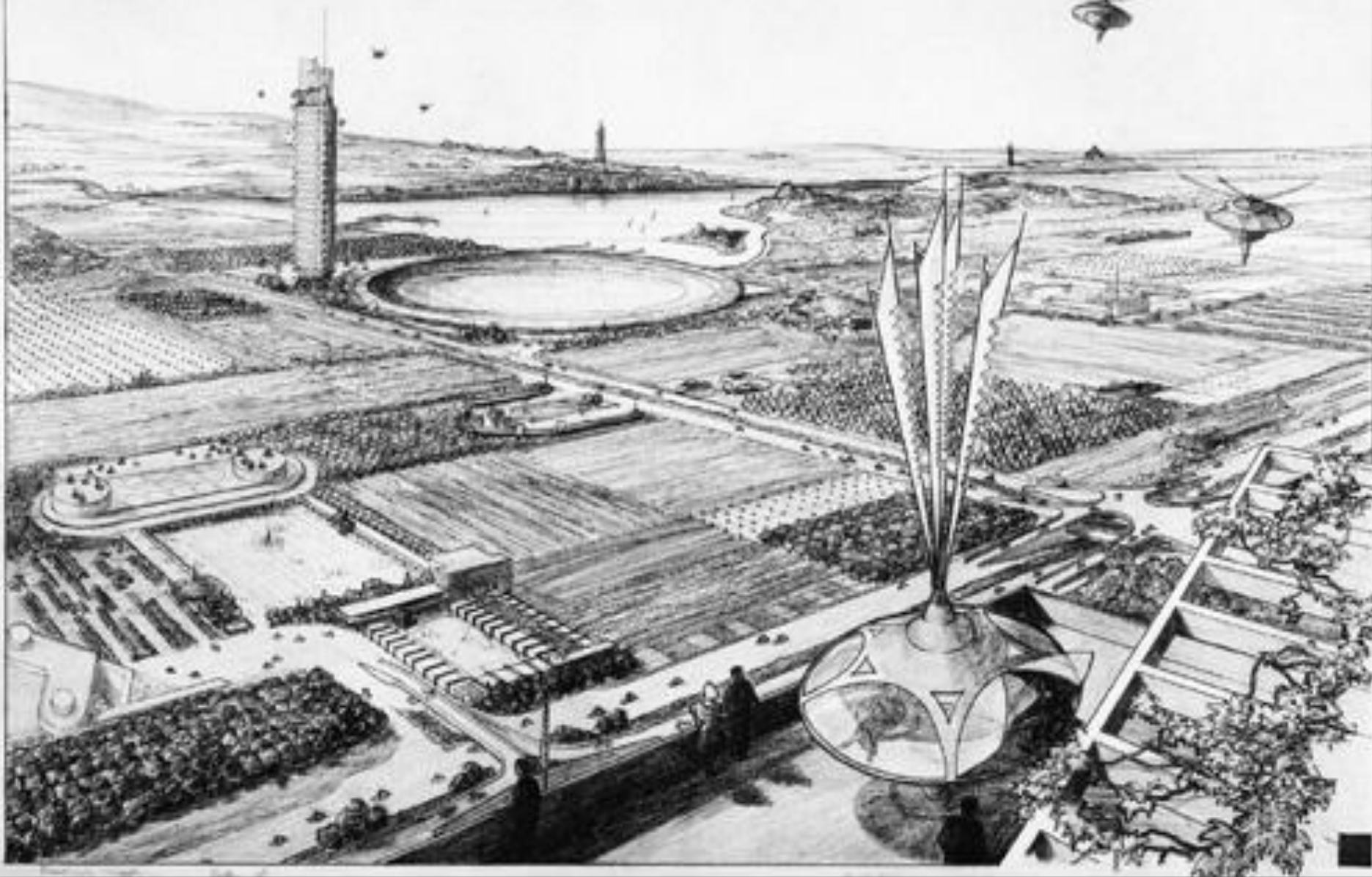
Frank Lloyd Wright

- Wright(1869-1959)
 - Aimed at preserving independent rural life
 - Influenced by the early spread of the motor car among NA farmers
 - Cities could now spread widely
- Dispersion not only of homes but jobs would be the future

Frank Lloyd Wright

- Broadacre City
 - Completely dispersed but planned low density urban spread
 - Each home surrounded by an acre of land to grow crops
- Homes connected by super highways
- The emergence and spread of roadside civilizations; growing importance of petrol stations

Frank Lloyd Wright's
Broadacre City (1930's)



Le Corbusier

- Charles Eduoard Jeanneret (1887-1965)
 - Swiss-born architect
- Authored 'The City of Tomorrow' and 'The Radiant City' (*La Ville Radieuse*)
- Emerged out of a concern for overcrowding and congestion characteristic of the traditional city

Le Corbusier

- Made 4 propositions:
 1. As population increase more and more pressure was placed on the inner sections of the city
 2. Paradox: congestion could be curbed by increasing density
 3. The city density gradient should be even out to avoid congestion
 4. A new and highly efficient transport system

La Ville Radieuse



Assessment of the Seers

- Mostly concerned with the production of blue prints or statements of the future end-state of the city
- Less concerned with planning as a continuous process
- The Planner as the omniscient ruler; unquestionable
- Ignored the influence of private capitalists and other stakeholder groups

Assessment of the Seers cont'd

- Their blueprints seldom admitted of alternatives
- Understandable since they were all essentially visionaries

Assessment of the Seers

- They were all physical planners
- They saw problems of society and of the economy in physical terms
 - A physical or spatial solution; bricks and stones
- Some problems can't just be solved by physical and spatial planning:
 - Racism and segregation; Inadequate education; Juvenile Delinquency etc.
- Ignored the possibility of non-physical solutions

Criticisms

- Social blindness: planners viewed towns and their problems only in physical (and aesthetic) terms
- Physical determinism: assumption that the layout and form of the physical environment would determine the quality of social life.
- Lack of consultation