

conditions of 'controlled development' and genetically 'natural' town fabric formation. It is evident that even 'controlled development' has not eliminated some fundamental aspects of uncontrolled development.

In the case of the cities of Yekaterinburg, Penza, Barnaul, Lvov, Kaluga and Krasnoyarsk, what in the West would be termed 'fringe belts' have been the subject of recommendations to the city authorities for their reconstruction, preservation and development. They were declared to be integral parts of contemporary cities.

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Revisiting Conzen's *Alnwick* data

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As interest in the work of M.R.G. Conzen has broadened (Evenden, 2004; Koster, 2001; Marzot, 2005), stimulated in part by the publication of many of his previously unpublished writings (Conzen, 2004; Samuels, 2005), so have questions arisen about his data and methods of working. Records of the field surveys that Conzen undertook in his classic study of Alnwick are held in the M.R.G. Conzen Collection in the University of Birmingham. Exploration of these, and some reworking of them, has prompted my own reflections on what they reveal.

In addition to the survey undertaken in 1953, in preparation for the publication of the Alnwick monograph (Conzen, 1960), a similar survey was undertaken in 1964. I shall confine my attention here to these two surveys, comprising two field-books.

In each field-book, plot-by-plot data on land use and building fabric are provided in columns. The notation system used consists mainly of two-letter codes in combination of upper- and lower-case

characters. To process the data myself I converted them to a database. The structure of this database strongly resembles the tables in the field-books. Columns have been added to link the database to a map in a Geographical Information System (GIS). The handwritten entries in the field-books are not always entirely clear so the process of transferring the data from the field-books to a database could not be automated – everything had to be re-typed.

Conzen developed his own notation. The first key dates from his student days in Berlin in the early 1930s. References to a very basic key can be found in his *Staatsexamen* dissertation (Conzen, 1932). It is not completely clear how many different keys have been created, but the key Conzen used in the 1953 survey is noted by him as being the fifth. There are also a number of undated keys in the M.R.G. Conzen Collection. Some were clearly designed to be used for educational purposes; some are unfinished. I shall concentrate here on the keys numbered as fifth and sixth. It is known that the sixth key was designed for use in

the survey of Alnwick undertaken in 1964.

I have remapped the two surveys on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan surveyed in 1961, digitizing the plots on this plan by hand. All buildings, other than minor outbuildings, have been included as separate objects. Other features, such as gardens and parks, have been added in a more generalized way. The database has been added to this plan using unique values that link the polygons to the data.

During the process of analysis notations have been grouped based on a system that Conzen used in his keys. In the case of land use, for example, shops were divided into seven groups, of which food, household, clothing and miscellaneous were the main categories. The combinations have been mapped using a GIS, both for 1953 and 1964. Between those two dates there was an increase in the number of shops that Conzen listed as 'miscellaneous' and a decrease in the number selling 'food'. There was also a decrease in the total number of shops – a trend that was probably common in European small towns in the early 1960s.

The maps that Conzen constructed of the various townscape features – for example roofing materials, wall materials and period of construction – were similar to those used by him later as the basis for producing maps of morphological regions in Ludlow (Conzen, 1975). The published maps of Alnwick's land use and building fabric in the *Festschrift* for G.H.J. Daysh (Conzen, 1966) are highly generalized, but it is evident from comparison with the GIS based on the data from the field-books that the field survey undertaken in 1964 has been used to produce these maps.

Apart from being able to add his glossary of technical terms to the second edition of the Alnwick study, Conzen was severely limited in the revisions he was able to make in that publication. The survey undertaken in 1964 could not be incorporated.

In 2004 I was able to carry out my own survey

of Alnwick, following the rules and guidelines Conzen set out half a century earlier. Alnwick underwent many changes during the intervening period. The results of this third survey are in the course of preparation.

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Space in the traditional city

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In their overview of British urban fortifications, Creighton and Higham (2005) make a number of important points of relevance to concepts about urban form and structure, and the contribution of

open space. Many familiar concepts of Conzenian urban morphology were developed with reference to walled towns (Conzen, 1960, 1962, 2004), and many Conzenian-inspired analyses of English