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Autore	Bishop Kevin <1966->
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Nota di contenuto	Countryside Planning New Approaches to Management and Conservation -- Copyright -- Contents -- List of Tables, Figures and Boxes -- List of Contributors -- List of Acronyms and Abbreviations -- Preface -- Chapter 1 Then and Now: Planning for Countryside Conservation -- Introduction -- Defining countryside conservation and planning -- Then: a lasting legacy -- Now: a new era? -- An outline -- PART 1: THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT FOR COUNTRYSIDE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT -- Chapter 2 From Sandy to Rio: The Development of Biodiversity Action Planning -- The road to Rio -- The road from Rio -- Re-framing the agenda -- Conclusions -- Chapter 3 European Frameworks for Nature Conservation: The Case of the Birds and Habitats Directives -- The birds and habitats directives -- Delivery mechanisms -- Impact on the British planning system and wider countryside policy frameworks -- The changing context -- Conclusions -- Chapter 4 Our Landscape from a Wider Perspective -- Landscape --

an elusive concept for international policy -- Cultural landscapes and the world heritage convention -- Protected landscapes -- European landscape convention -- Recent developments in the European Union -- The implications for the UK -- Chapter 5 Policy Context for Community Involvement in Countryside Planning -- Global and European drivers towards sustainable development, human rights and environmental policy -- The UK response -- Conclusions -- PART 2: NEW CONCEPTS AND TOOLS -- Chapter 6 The Natural Area Experience -- New solutions to old problems -- New needs and drivers -- Developing the framework -- Natural areas in practice -- Where next? -- Conclusions -- Chapter 7 The Assessment of Countryside and Landscape Character in England: An Overview -- The evolution of countryside and landscape character assessment -- Making judgements based on countryside and landscape character. Practical applications of landscape character assessment -- Current and future issues -- Chapter 8 Policies and Priorities for Ireland's Landscapes -- The heritage council -- The first steps -- The pilot landscape characterization -- County Clare -- The next steps -- Conclusions -- Chapter 9 Development and Application of Landscape Assessment Guidelines in Ireland: Case Studies using Forestry and Wind Farm Developments -- Irish landscape assessment guidelines -- Case study 1: landscape assessment in the planning and design of forestry -- Case study 2: landscape assessment in the planning and design of wind farms -- Conclusions -- Chapter 10 Historic Landscape Characterization -- Background -- Historic landscape characterization -- The application of HLC -- Conclusions -- Chapter 11 Connecting the Pieces: Scotland's Integrated Approach to the Natural Heritage -- The overall philosophy -- Basic structure of approach -- What are the benefits -- actual and expected? -- Conclusions -- Chapter 12 LANDMAP: A Tool to Aid Sustainable Development -- Organizational change -- How the method was developed -- The LANDMAP method -- Where next -- towards sustainability? -- PART 3: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE -- Chapter 13 Applications of Landscape Character Assessment -- Range of applications -- Character assessment and planning -- Character assessment and land management -- Character assessment and other strategic initiatives -- Towards good practice -- Chapter 14 The Link Between Landscape, Biodiversity and Development Plans: A Move Towards 'Positive Planning'? -- The policy context for positive planning -- Research method -- Development of Regulation 37 policies -- Policies promoting/enhancing biodiversity -- Implementing positive planning policies -- Conclusions -- Chapter 15 A New Way of Valuing Land in the Countryside: Are We Lost Without a Map?. Links to the statutory land use planning system -- Effectiveness of the new approaches -- Community involvement -- Conclusions -- Chapter 16 Community Involvement in Countryside Planning in Practice -- Frameworks for analysing levels of community involvement -- Examples of community involvement in countryside planning -- Overall strands and themes -- Conclusions -- Index.