

Rhwydwaith Dyfodolion Cymru
Wales Futures Network



ARSYLLFA ARLOESED
OBSERVATORY OF INNOVATION



Making Futures Matter Rhoi Dyfodolion ar Waith





Jamie Saunders

Local futures: ready or not? Wales and “The Long Now”

Dyfodolion lleol: yn barod neu beidio? Cymru a'r “Nawr Hir”

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local futures – ready or not? Wales and “the Long Now”

Jamie Saunders

Senior Policy Officer – Governance, Bradford Council

Wales Futures Network Conference – February 02007

Futures beyond dystopia

“The twenty first century may be a ‘make’ or ‘break’ time for humanity. Present trends do not encourage optimism. There are, however, many ways in which humans can act to develop foresight and to ‘steer’ toward more consciously chosen futures.”

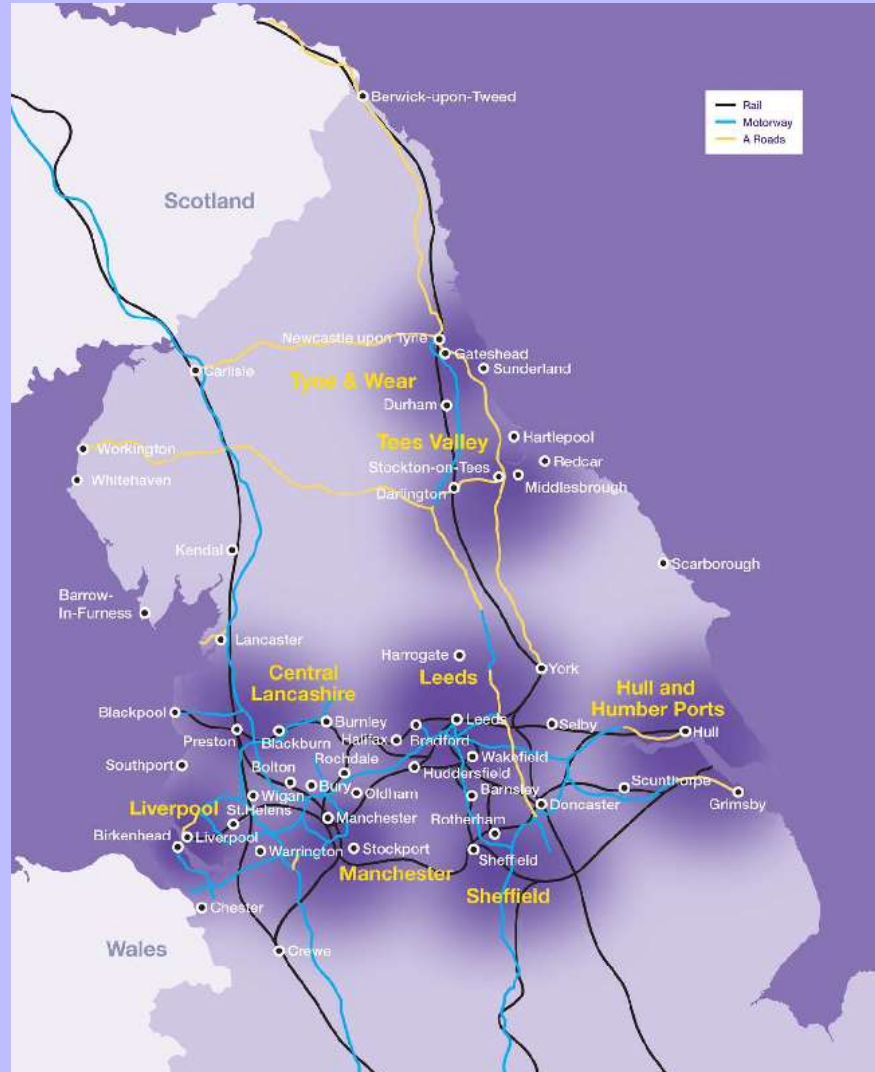
Richard Slaughter, *Futures Beyond Dystopia*, *Creating Social Foresight*, 02004

Mind, body, spirit, soul...

“They are of the dream time...Everything dreams. But when the mind becomes conscious, when the rate of evolution speeds up, then you have to be careful. Careful of the world. You must learn the way. You must learn the skills, the art, the limits. A conscious mind must be part of the whole, intentionally and carefully...”

Ursula Le Guin, 1971, *The Lathe of Heaven*

Of places and a time...



Casting a Green Net: Can it be we are seeing a Dragon ?



The Harrison Studio: Newton & Helen Mayer Harrison & Associates, 01999

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What if?

“The only relevant questions about the future are those where we succeed from shifting the question from whether something will happen to what we would do if it did happen”

– Arie de Geus via <http://www.shell.com>

Greenhouse Britain Partnership: **“Losing Ground, Gaining Wisdom”**



‘One Island Living’

...a creative response to the question;

“If the water around Britain were to rise by 3 or 5 metres how would we withdraw gracefully?”

**An exploration of anticipation, adaptation and action...
...imagination, ingenuity and initiative...**

Contact: Chris Fremantle
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Which map shall we use?



<http://www.oldmap.co.uk/Wales.html>

<http://imagesource.allposters.com/images/SPA/1466.jpg>

Our mental map?...

02007-	First thoughts... critical thinking?
Challenges	
Opportunities	

Mental map?...

02007-	This year NOW	This decade SOON	This century and beyond LATER
Challenges			
Opportunities			

Which map shall we use?

... C16th ... C19th C20th **C21st** C22nd C23rd C24th C25th



“The Long Now”: a 10,000 year futurescape...

...‘a hundred centuries’...

A story evolving...

From 'regeneration' to 'settlement' ?

From the 'Big Here' to

...forethought

...alternative futures

...the decades ahead...

...critical futures

...twenty first century futures

...local futures: ready or not...

...'mainstreaming futures'

...glocal futures

...'the Long Now' ...

Forethought

And imagination...

- **NOW !** - 'the tyranny of the present'...'culture of immediacy'
- **Timescapes** * (Barbara Adam, 01997)
- From the 'big here' to **the Long Now** (Stewart Brand, 01999)
- **Futurity** and 'futurescapes'
- Assumptions and Dependencies
- Vulnerabilities, Resilience – Adaptability, Transformability
- Hopes and Dreams
- 'Making the invisible visible'

Alternative futures

Preferable, Probable, Possible

- Plausible?
- Preferable – for who? Who chooses?
- Conflict present... ‘Contested futures’
- Futures Present, Present Futures (Adam 02006)
- Politics – public choice for future generations

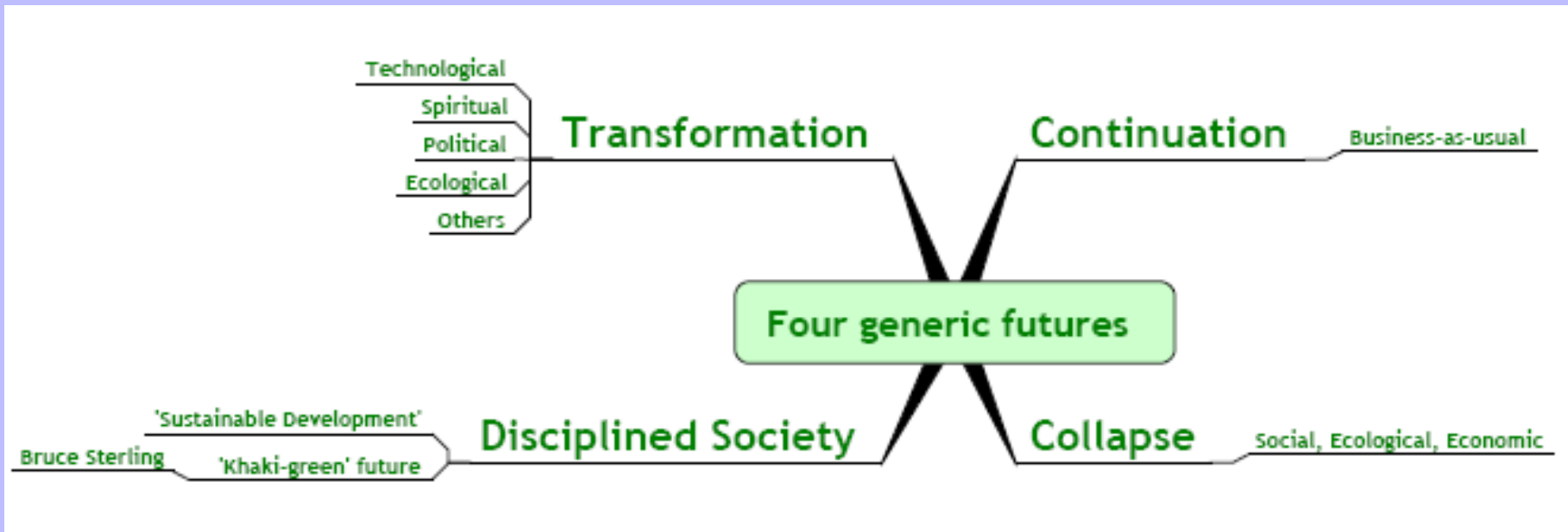
‘Good governance and sound public management are pre-conditions for the implementation of sustainable development policies’ OECD (02002)

Alternative futures

Lessons from America

Failure of imagination (9/11), Failure of initiative (Katrina)

Four Futures... James Dator, Hawaii



The decades ahead...

Getting through the “Bottleneck” (E O Wilson)

‘Five stresses & two multipliers’

- **energy stress**
 - especially from increasing scarcity of conventional oil;
- **economic stress**
 - from greater global economic instability and widening income gaps between rich and poor;
- **demographic stress**
 - from differentials in population growth rates between rich and poor societies and from expansion of mega-cities in poor societies;
- **environmental stress**
 - from worsening damage to land, water forests, and fisheries; and,
- **climate stress**
 - from changes in the composition of Earth's atmosphere

Critical futures

Integral futures, social foresight & ‘post-conventional futures’

- Richard Slaughter

Provocative scenarios

- Wendy Schultz

Resilience

- **Anticipation, investment and preparedness**
- adaptability at scale e.g. Resilience Alliance

‘Critical infrastructure’ (or ‘eco-structure’)?

- Natural capital
- Human capital
- Social capital
- Manufactured capital (bio-economy?)
- Financial capital

Systems of institutions and governance

Twenty-first century futures

Better Wales...A Better Country?

'Wales is starting the 21st century with new potential as well as some old challenges.

We need now to build on those strengths and on Wales' unique identity in order to establish a distinct sustainable future for Wales'

Wales: a better country... 'sets a challenge to all concerned with the future of Wales. With devolution, our destiny... is increasingly in our own hands.

We need to work together to shape a positive destiny, reflecting our heritage but also confident, outward looking and enjoying the challenges that the twenty first century will set us...

Twenty-first century futures

Governing the future(s)?

“The *Local Government White Paper (02006)* develops the framework for local strategic leadership...”

DCLG – ‘Place Matters’, 02007

Welsh Assembly Government – “A Better Wales”

22 Local Authorities (01996) in Wales

“Councils have a power of community leadership.

As democratically accountable bodies with wide reaching powers, functions and influence councils are central to the lives and futures of the communities they serve.

Community leadership means

- defining a vision for the community
- working in partnership to fulfil that vision.”

<http://www.wlga.gov.uk/content.php?nID=28;IID=1>

Twenty-first century futures

Futures literacy, futures fluency, futures application

‘The Official Future’

‘Public Pessimism’

‘Futures Literacy’

– DEMOS – Glasgow 2020

+ ***‘Recalcitrant voluntarism’***

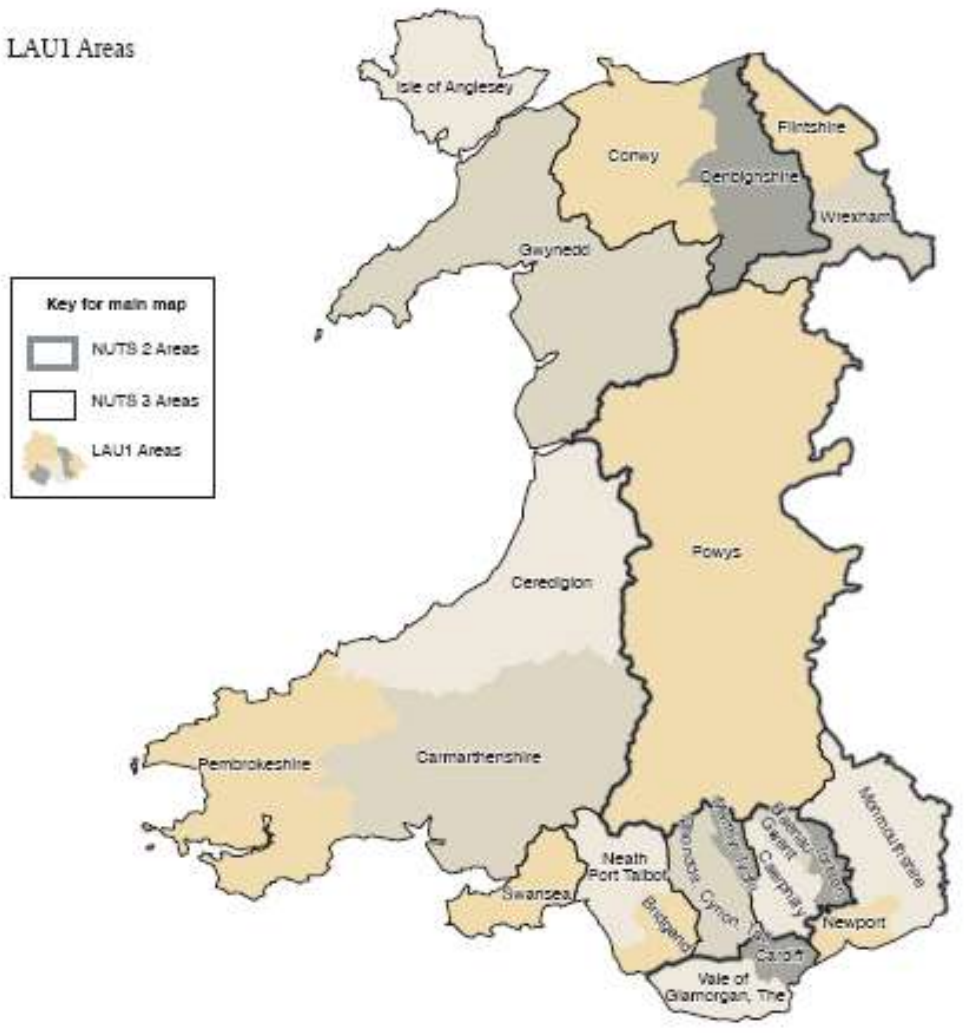
– *versus ‘Conformist voluntarism’*

– *‘exposes the conflict of structured interests at stake’*

– *A Law & G Mooney, Variant 26 – Summer 2006*

Local futures: ready or not...

LAUI Areas



Copyright Microsoft Corporation

Mainstreaming futures

Serious

Playful

Creative

Applied

Local Government Association - Futures toolkit 02001

- The future: why consider it?
- Drivers and Scenarios
- Drivers of change
- Scenarios for local government
- Futures methods
- Who to involve
- Internal arrangements
- Mainstreaming futureswork ***
- Local examples
 - eg Brighton, Herefordshire, Milton Keynes, Kirklees
- Facilitation and support
- References and Sources
- <http://www.lga.gov.uk/Publication.asp?lsection=0&ccat=28&id=-A7805B01>

Glocal futures

People and Places – ‘Spreading our bets’

Renewal, Regeneration, Renaissance?

Success? Sustainability? Resilience? Survival?

“Future considerations should dwarf the present”

“How do we make long term thinking automatic and common instead of difficult and rare ?”

– Stewart Brand, 01999

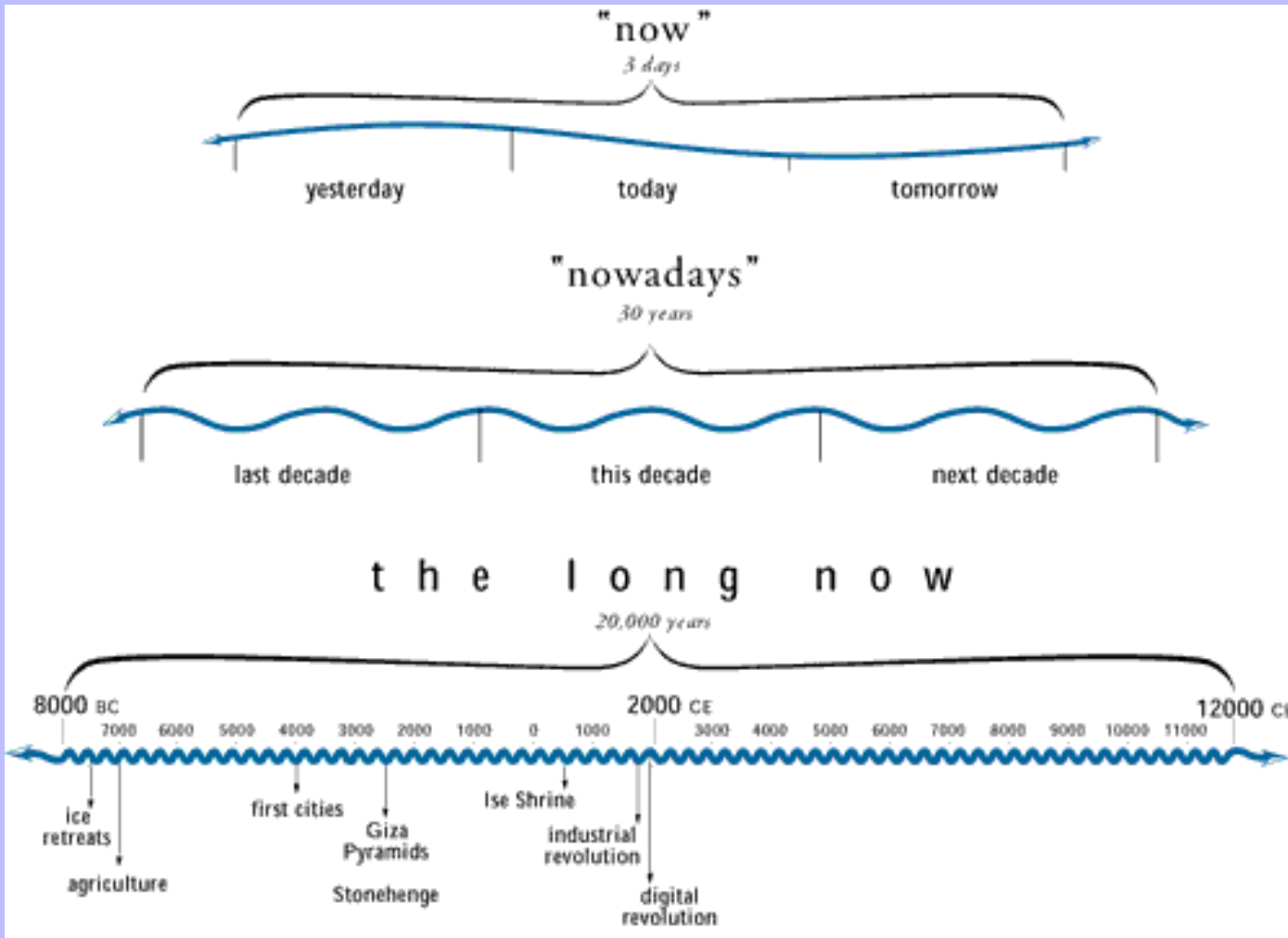
Local Futures

Welsh Futures

British Futures

Glocal Futures in the “Long Now”

The Long Now



1 year

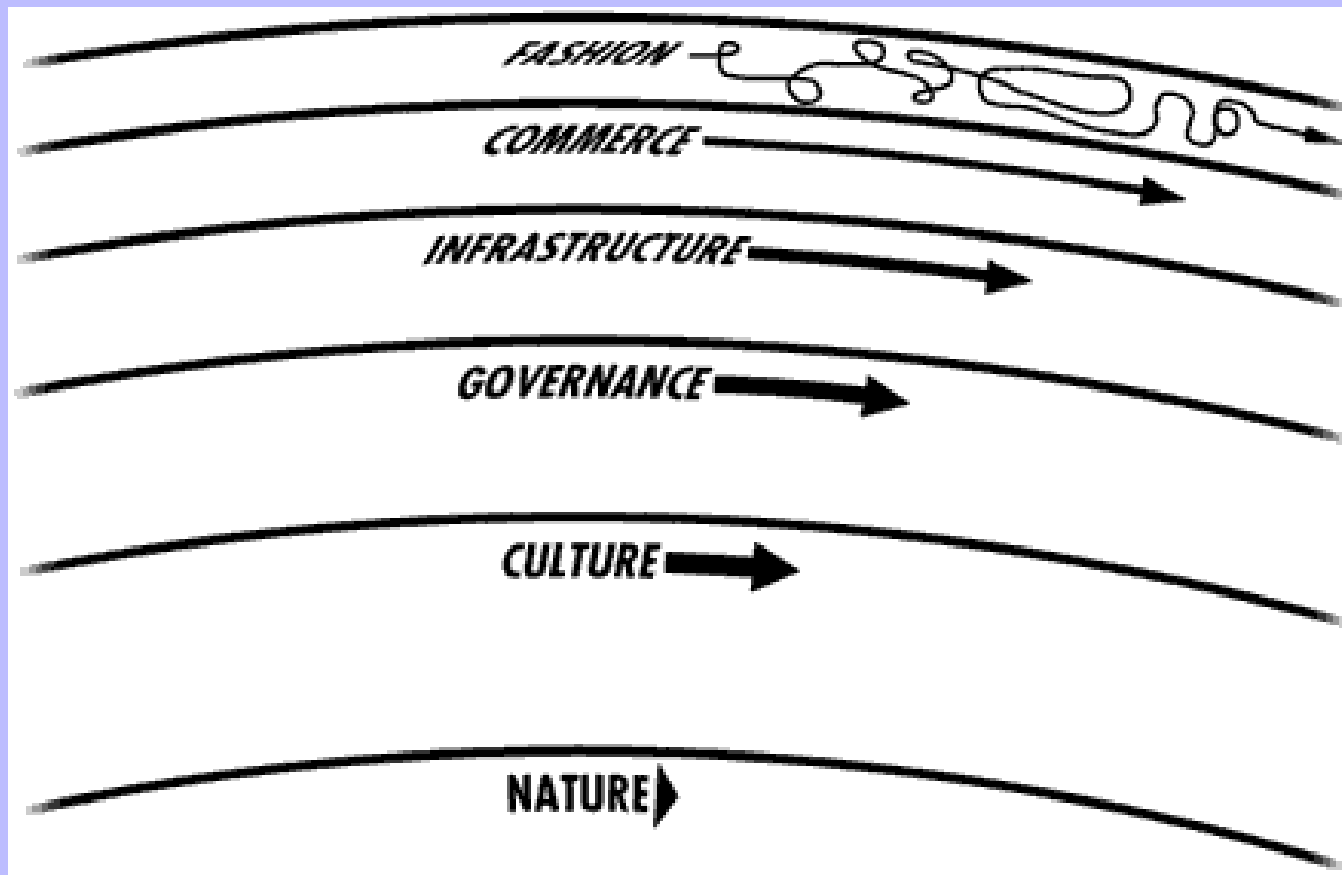
10 years

100 years

10,000 years

Pace layers of civilisation

Are we civilisation building ?



What if?

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Arie de Geus via <http://www.shell.com>

Horizon Scanning

What's on the radar for the Wales ?

- E - ecological ... climate change...biodiversity...'web of life'...
- P - political... petro-culture...capitalism and 'hybrid societies'...
- I - individuals...'liquid times'...beliefs...identities...engagement...
- S - demographics...complexity.....tolerance...lifestyles...impacts
- T - robotics, genetic engineering, nanotechnology... computing...
- L - law...accepted rules... accepted behaviours...
- E - GVA/GDP...profitability...productivity...'eco- economy'...

All our futures

Tackling the ‘Seventh Enemy’ ?

“...political inertia and individual blindness”

Ronald Higgins, 01977

A shared future?

- Whose future?
- Interdependence
- Cohesion, integration, co-evolution

‘One Island Living’ ?

Casting a Green Net...

...Another ‘Dragon’ emerging?

in ‘Greenhouse Britain’...

...with ‘One Island Living’?

...Wise before the event...

...navigating the ‘last great wilderness’...

With thanks to Newton and Helen

futurity

“Futurity, which means our multiple extensions into as well as our approaches to the future, is an inescapable aspect of social, cultural and economic existence. Futures are created continuously, across the world, every second of the day...produced by the full range of social institutions...and at all levels of social relations...”

Barbara Adam, ‘Futurescapes...’, 2006

futurity

UNESCO

**Declaration on the Responsibility of Present
Generations towards Future Generations**

01997

- <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001108/110827eb.pdf>

Futuresedge

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