

Brownfield Development: a Comparison of North American and British Approaches

Professor David Adams

(Ian Mactaggart Chair of Property and Urban Studies)

University of Glasgow
Department of Urban Studies,
25 Bute Gardens
Glasgow
G12 8RS
Scotland
UK

Tel: +44 (0)141 330 6280

E-mail: d.adams@lbss.gla.ac.uk

Co-Author: Chris De Sousa, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

ABSTRACT

This paper will aim to explore and evaluate commonalities and differences between the brownfield agendas in North America and Britain. Specifically, it will compare policies and practices in the United States, Canada, Scotland and England in order to understand how distinctive features have arisen in the brownfield debate in each country.

The authors will first explore how and why the term brownfield is defined in each country. The paper will then draw on recent research and publicly available statistics to examine the significance of brownfield land in each country, with attention given to the most prominent former uses of such land.

The paper will then move on to evaluate and explain the importance attached by respective governments to brownfield redevelopment. Relevant public policies and initiatives will be reviewed and compared. Alongside this, consideration will also be given to the keenness of the private sector to promote on brownfield redevelopment, and to the main constraints to brownfield redevelopment in each country.

In summary, the paper will seek to discover whether the main differences in understanding and tackling brownfield land between North America and Britain are due primarily to physical, cultural or institutional factors.

Key Words: Brownfields, urban redevelopment, policy analysis