

Garden City

Architecture

Ebenezer Howard's diagram, what it actually proposed, and how it was misread.

Ebenezer Howard's 1898 proposal for planned towns of limited size, surrounded by a permanent green belt, with land held in common so rising value returned to the community.

FIRST GARDEN CITY

Letchworth, 1903

TOWN SIZE

about 30,000

- Set out in Tomorrow, 1898; reissued 1902.
- Target of about 30,000 people per town.
- A permanent agricultural belt around each.
- Land held in trust, not privately captured.
- Letchworth begun 1903, Welwyn 1920.
- The land ownership idea was mostly dropped later.

LOOK FOR IT

Howard's three magnets diagram argues that town and country each have defects the other can cure.

Against Victorian slum overcrowding and speculative land value. What survived was the greenery; the land reform rarely did.