



# RETROSUBURBIA

THE DOWNSHIFTER'S GUIDE TO A RESILIENT FUTURE

## CHAPTER 4: HOW TO ASSESS A PROPERTY

### QUESTIONS:

- Were there any surprises for you in the results of the Retrosuburban Real Estate Checklist (RREC)? Are there features of your property that you are now looking at in a new way?
- You may feel that some aspects of the RREC should be given more weight than others – are there things that are more or less important to you?
- What particular features has your house got that makes it resilient? Could you make even better use of them?
- Is there anything that didn't come up on the checklist that might affect your activities on the property? (see anecdote box on p. 85)
- How is your house constructed? What aspects of your house make it difficult or easy to modify?
- What are the prevalent natural disasters in your area? What are the risks to your specific site?
- Are you vulnerable to flash flooding? Do you know where your house lies in the landscape and where your nearest culverts or storm drains are?
- Has reading the sections on solar access changed your awareness? Are there aspects of this that you still find confusing?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of living on the 'edge' of suburbia, compared with an 'artery' location? Which suits you better? Where are you currently located?

### ACTIVITIES:

- Undertake the Built section of the RREC (available on the [retrosuburbia website](http://retrosuburbia.com)). This could be done beforehand with the results brought to the group, or done whilst in the group with lots of discussion as you go.
- If some people are not used to thinking about sun angles, explore the various features of [suncalc.net](http://suncalc.net), or even better, set up a model of a house and use a torch in low light to simulate the sun at different times of the day and year.

