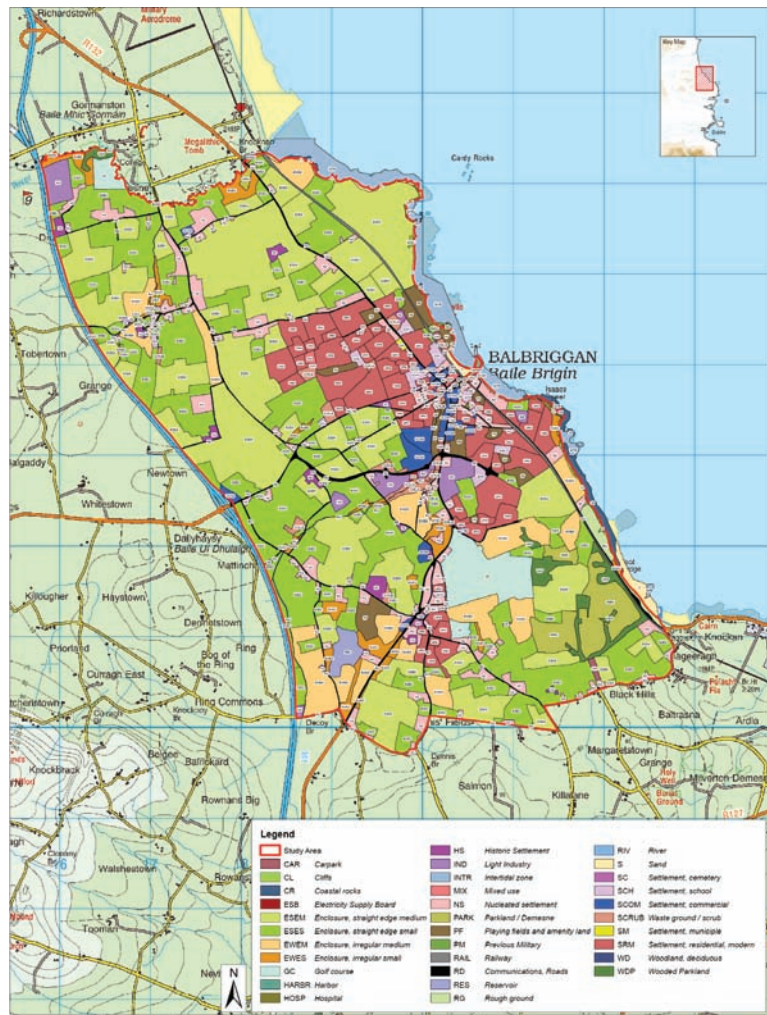


HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION IN IRELAND: BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE



HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION IN IRELAND:

BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE

George Lambrick, Jill Hind and Ianto Wain

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



© An Chomhairle Oidhreachta / The Heritage Council 2013

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be printed or reproduced or utilised in any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying or licence permitting restricted copying in Ireland issued by the Irish Copyright Licencing Agency Ltd.
The Writers' Centre
19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1

Published by The Heritage Council

The Heritage Council of Ireland Series

ISBN 978-1-906304-21-8

Designed and Produced by B+H. Magee Design Ltd
Editorial consultant Eleanor Flegg



Printed on Recycled paper containing a minimum of 75% de-inked post consumer waste.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	4
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	5
LIST OF FIGURES	6
INTRODUCTION	8
STAGE A: DEFINING THE OVERALL RATIONALE	18
STAGE B: MAPPING AND DESCRIPTION	29
STAGE C: ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS	43
STAGE D: MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	55
GENERAL ISSUE G: DATA MANAGEMENT, ACCESS AND PRESENTATION	68
SUMMARY	80
APPENDIX A: BASELINE DATA CHECKLIST	81
APPENDIX B: OUTLINE CLASSIFICATION OF HISTORIC CHARACTER TYPES (HCTS)	84
APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY	89
APPENDIX D: FURTHER READING	91

FOREWORD

Since its inception in 1995 the Heritage Council has championed the principle that landscape is a cornerstone of our heritage. It has imprinted itself on us just as much as we have imprinted on it. In the ordinary, day-to-day living of our lives we bring places into existence, and these endure as a special type of gateway unto our collective yesteryears. As artist Alan Counihan puts it: 'human presences accrete upon the land, clustering around and within the physical remnants of erstwhile activities or the monuments and ruins that once expressed or housed their conscious hopes in this world'. In fact the landscape houses the most detailed and faithful record of human history because it is an account of our actions. It is this history, the successes and the failures, the ease and the graft, that gives the landscape its historical depth and character.

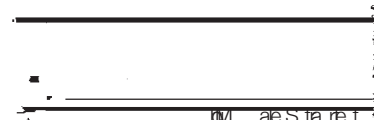
Drawing on a variety of disciplines such as archaeology, geography and architecture, Historic Landscape Characterisation attempts to describe and document the character of different landscapes in order that they may be valued for the social resource that they are, and managed as historical capital. Managing the landscape is not just about looking after the protected or iconic parts that we are all generally familiar with, but it must also be about understanding and caring for everyday and undesignated places as well.

While there are many ways of capturing and sharing these valuable attributes; through folklore projects, field-name recording, archaeological surveys, artistic collaborations and so on; a way that has emerged in recent years is Historic Landscape Characterisation or HLC. The Heritage Council has advocated this, tested it with a variety of partners and is now sharing this guidance on how to attempt it in a way that can contribute to landscape research, understanding and management.

HLC complements other historic environment records which focus mainly on individual heritage assets and areas rather than general landscape character. It also complements and contributes to general Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), enhancing its consideration of historic aspects of the landscape. As such this guidance is intended as a contribution to the government's emerging National Landscape Strategy.



Conor Newman
Chairman


Chief Executive

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology (OA) with George Lambrick Archaeology and Heritage Consultancy were commissioned by the Heritage Council to carry out a review of Historic Landscape characterisation projects carried out in Ireland before 2009 and develop guidance to support application of a consistent methodological approach in future characterisation projects drawing on the strengths of previous studies.

The OA team would like to thank the members of the Steering Group (Dr Gerry Clabby, Prof Gabriel Cooney, Graeme Fairclough, Dr Eoin Sullivan) for their help in preparing this guidance. In addition we are grateful to all those people who attended the Focus Group meetings (Emmet Byrnes, Tom Condit, Anthony Corns, Lisa Courtney, Siobhain Deery, Eoin Halpin, Louise Harrington, Catherine Keena, Dr Tomás Ó Carragáin) and who supplied us with comments, suggestions and illustrations (Loreto Guinan, Will Megarry and Ken Hanley). In particular we would like to thank Ian Doyle of the Heritage Council for much general advice and comments, supplying copies of relevant characterisation studies, organising the various consultation meetings and seeing this through to publication.

The illustrations supplied by a range of organisations such as the National Roads Authority, Fingal, Meath, Clare and Monaghan County Councils, School of Archaeology UCD and Department of Archaeology UCC are appreciated.

List of figures

	Page
Figure 1: The landscape of Kilkenny showing the river Nore running through field systems of varying date with the former demesne of Mount Juliet now operating as a golf course. The remains of the deserted medieval town of Newtown Jerpoint can be seen in the bottom left corner.	8
Figure 2: The townland of Forramoyle East, near Barna in Galway as photographed in 1969. A complex of relict fields are set within a more regular pattern of boundary walls and these coupled with the vernacular houses make a strong contribution to the character of the landscape (Jim Sugar).	9
Figure 3 (a): County Offaly as characterised by the EU funded Pathways to European Cultural Landscapes project. This was an early testing of HLC in Ireland, providing a characterisation for counties Offaly, Westmeath and Laois. 3 (b) The Archaeological Landscapes Project based in the School of Archaeology in UCD examined the use of HLC as a means of examining the cultural landscape. The Cooley peninsula in Co Louth was characterised, including this area to the west of Carlingford at the scale of individual fields or land parcels.	13
Figure 4: Areas where HLC has been carried out in Ireland to date	14
Figure 5: The HLC Process	17
Figure 6: Stage A of the HLC process	18
Figure 7: (a) Ordnance Survey vertical aerial photograph of the Balbriggan, Co Dublin, HLC area, (b) HLC land use types for Balbriggan (Fingal County Council)	22-23
Figure 8: Historic maps such as this one of Dungannon, Co Tyrone, dating from c 1609 help to provide an insight into the evolution of an area	24
Figure 9: Comparison of characterisation by land parcel and townland for Donabate, Co Dublin showing in (a) characterisation by land parcels or fields and (b) by townlands (Fingal County Council)	27
Figure 10: Stage B of the HLC process	29
Figure 11: Sources used in the compilation of the Donabate HLC (Fingal County Council)	31
Figure 12 a-c: Appendix B sets out three levels of HLC analysis, each of which are shown for the Brú na Boinne World Heritage site in Co Meath. (a) Level 1 Broad type HLC, (b) Level 2 Generic type HLC and (c) Level 3 Specific type HLC (Will Magherry and Meath County Council)	33-35
Figure 13: Intrinsic Bay, Kilkee, County Clare so called after a ship named the <i>Intrinsic</i> was wrecked there in 1850	37
Figure 14: The ladder fields shown here in Co Clare make a distinctive contribution to local character	38
Figure 15: The demesne landscape of Strokestown, Co Roscommon stands out from the surrounding field system in this Ordnance Survey vertical aerial photograph	38
Figure 16: Good fieldwork is enabled by good preparation, documentation and discussion	41
Figure 17: Consultation with local community groups and interested organisations brings differing perspectives to bear on a characterisation study and helps to communicate the importance of the landscape	41
Figure 18: Stage C of the HLC process	43
Figure 19: A study of Clones, Co Monaghan, divided the town into a series of Historic Character Areas	44
Figure 20: HLC of Corcu Duibne, Co Kerry. The relatively large areas with high visibility of medieval fields around Lough Currane and in the Caherlehillan and adjoining valleys are the result of field systems survey. (Making Christian Landscapes INSTAR Project, Archaeology Department, University College Cork).	46

Figure 21:	'Time slice' mapping of the Brú na Boinne World Heritage site in Co Meath showing broad historical (mid-19th century) land use or characters. In comparison to Figure 12a large estates and demesnes are more visible in this period and the landscape has considerably less settlement (Will Magherry and Meath County Council)	49
Figure 22:	The impact of stone clearance over time can be seen in these successive photographs of Glenfahan, Co Kerry by (a) St Joseph (Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs 1964), (b) Gillian Barrett (1990), (c) Markus Casey (c. 2000). The impact of modern clearance and land improvement on historic field patterns is clearly apparent.	50
Figure 23:	Interpretative and directional signage at Rindoon deserted medieval settlement in Co Roscommon illustrating how heritage can contribute to tourism and amenity projects	52
Figure 24:	Stage D of the HLC process	55
Figure 25:	The cumulative impact of modern development	58
Figure 26:	The medieval town of Fethard, Co Tipperary retains its rural surroundings	61
Figure 27:	Damage identified to this earthwork at Rathcroghan, Co Roscommon	63
Figure 28:	Trim SEA cover	65
Figure 29:	In 2000 the Heritage Council, in partnership with Clare County Council, commissioned a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) which included a HLC with (a) resulting Landscape Character Types and (b) Historic Character Types which informed the LCA	67
Figure 30:	Stage G of the HLC process	68
Figure 31:	The use of GIS in the Making Christian Landscapes project	69
Figure 32:	This HLC project examined the corridor of the proposed N20 road scheme to the north and east of Mallow in Co Cork (Ken Hanley/National Roads Authority)	71
Figure 33:	Wide ranging consultation can increase understanding of what is seen as significant by different stakeholders and can create an improved awareness of projects	73
Figure 34:	Landscape character can be illustrated by original sources such as historic aerial photography. This aerial photograph shows Clogher Head, Co Louth, and dates from 1940.	75

INTRODUCTION

*'I come from scraggy farm and moss,
Old patchworks that the pitch and toss
Of history have left dishevelled.'*
Seamus Heaney 'A Peacock's Feather'

The distinctive character of the Irish landscape is based on a fusion of natural and cultural elements. Homesteads and settlements, field boundaries and field patterns, buildings and monuments, demesnes, planted woodlands, cut bogs, roads, quarries, mines and factories all attest to the imprint of people on the landscape. These cultural elements, combined with the natural landscape, give distinctive character to different places. Connemara, for example, has a different character to that of lowland Kilkenny, and this has been shaped, at least in part, by the way that people have lived in the landscape over time. Such differences help to define local identities and a sense of place.



Figure 1: The landscape of Kilkenny showing the river Nore running through field systems of varying date with the former demesne of Mount Juliet now operating as a golf course. The remains of the deserted medieval town of Newtown Jerpoint can be seen in the bottom left corner.

What is HLC?

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies the contribution of the past to the landscape. All areas have some element of historic character, which needs to be identified. HLC is not concerned exclusively with particular sites or monuments, although these do of course contribute to character, but considers the whole of the area. It contributes to practical landscape management by considering how monuments and landscape patterns are related. HLC contributes to the overall environmental evidence base. It does not create a separate database that subsumes other sources. HLC complements other historic environment records such as the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) , which focus mainly on individual heritage assets and areas rather than general landscape character. It also complements and contributes to general Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), enhancing its consideration of historic aspects of the landscape. Taken as a whole, HLC both identifies and analyses historic character. It assesses attributes like sensitivity, significance, and pressures of change and this assessment can form a basis for future management.

The principles underpinning HLC as a process are:

- Present not past: it looks at the time-depth of the existing landscape
- Landscape not sites: it applies to all areas, not just special ones or individual sites
- Cultural phenomenon: natural / semi-natural habitats contribute as well as human influences
- Interpretation not record: character is perceived by people
- People's views: local people's perspectives matter as well as those of experts
- Management of change: HLC is intended to inform change and not prevent it



Figure 2 : The townland of Forramoyle East, near Barna in Galway as photographed in 1969. A complex of relict fields are set within a more regular pattern of boundary walls and these coupled with the vernacular houses make a strong contribution to the character of the landscape (Jim Sugar).

- Transparency and accessibility: a clearly articulated process and easy for others to use
- Inter-operability: it should be capable of integrating with other records (Clark et al 2004)

While these principles are more generally recognised, different countries have adopted slightly different approaches. In Ireland, practice to date has sought to recognise and encapsulate how the relict and non-visible attributes of landscape affect the perception of its historic character.

Context

One of the major influences on the emergence of HLC is the European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, Florence 2000), which Ireland has ratified. The Convention defines 'landscape' as:

'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.'

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) also makes it clear that it applies to the entire territory, land, inland water and marine areas, and that there is no distinction between rural and urban areas. This definition of landscape is now included in the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010.

'Landscape' has many aspects and facets, and requires inter-disciplinary study. The aspect most familiar to the general public (and to planners and politicians) is probably the scenic one, which is captured reasonably well by LCA. However, understanding how landscape character and ecology have been influenced by historic patterns of socio-economic activity is a specialised perspective. It often needs to be considered separately before being integrated, for management purposes, with LCA's topographical, ecological and visual viewpoints.

HLC has been carried out in many European countries and there is a growing body of literature on the topic (see bibliography). But, while the general principles underlying the process are common to all, each country has its own particular landscape character and guidance needs to be tailored accordingly, particularly in the approach to defining generic historic characteristics or types. While individual historic buildings, designed landscapes, sites and monuments contribute to character, HLC offers a holistic approach. This should contribute to the overall environmental evidence base, complementing and contributing to Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) by adding a time-depth dimension.

In 2006 the Heritage Council called for the promotion of LCA for the whole country, with HLC forming an integral part of the process. A review of existing LCA projects published that year (Julie Martin Associates 2006) recommended that a National Landscape Classification be commissioned. The Heritage Council reiterated this proposal in 2010 as part of its submission to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's National Landscape Strategy (NLS). The guidance presented here is intended to contribute to the development of landscape characterisation in Ireland and to ensure that historic landscapes receive sufficient attention.

In recent years, considerable work has been done in Ireland by a variety of organisations relating to Historic Landscape Character, much of it supported by the Heritage Council. This has shown how HLC can be carried out at a range of scales for different purposes, using a more-or-less common set of relatively generic character types which, with more standardisation, could allow comparison of areas and facilitate understanding of the wider landscape. Not all aspects of Historic Landscape Character are visible: some are buried but influence the perception of landscape through knowledge and understanding.

Benefits

Historic Characterisation is a method of recognising the historic character, interest and value of widely different places and environments (rural, urban, coastal or marine). It is a tool that can enhance the understanding of how past human activity has influenced the character of today's landscape, townscape or seascape. HLC can contribute to historical and archaeological research and public understanding. Landscape does not exist in isolation from the people and it is vital to the success of HLC that there is public participation throughout the process.

HLC is not just intended to promote understanding of the archaeological and historical character of places, but also to explain how such character needs to be taken into account within a bigger picture of landuse change – where often the key issues are driven by quite distinct pressures that focus on particular areas or aspects of the rural, urban or marine environment. In this way, by informing decisions about future change in the light of historic change, HLC can enhance the quality and sustainability of new development and land management.

HLC can contribute significantly to people's quality of life, both by promoting understanding of their local environment and by ensuring that new development and landuse respects, maintains, and enhances the historic qualities that people value in the landscape, whether at national, regional or local level.

The benefits of HLC are:

- Implementation of the European Landscape Convention at a local, regional and national level as a key plank of general Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) at regional county or local level
- Improving public awareness, appreciation and understanding of historic landscape as a key part of people's sense of place and identity.
- HLC can form a robust basis for covering heritage issues in the drafting of Regional, County and Local Development Plans and guidance as well as their associated Strategic Environmental Assessments
- Providing a robust basis for assessing interactions of heritage, wildlife and landscape factors in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) of major developments or landuse improvement.
- Regeneration of small towns and villages in association with the preparation of Village Design Statements
- Targeting of landscape management initiatives, REPS agri-environment schemes, rural regeneration, farm diversification and woodland expansion,
- Assisting development of design guidelines for a wide range of developments from expansion of settlements and one-off rural housing to windfarms and other major infrastructure
- Input to Heritage Strategies, Local Action Plans and Tourism strategies
- Input to wider environmental initiatives like Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Inform the management of National Heritage Sites, Architectural Conservation Areas, Designed Landscapes etc
- Providing a valuable tool for further research into heritage at local, regional and national level

Why do HLC?

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is important for Ireland in respect of two major international obligations: firstly, its contribution to general landscape conservation in the light of Ireland's ratification of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) and, secondly, in the context of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

Although HLC is not a specifically defined requirement, both SEA and EIA regulations refer to the need to consider interrelationships between the architectural and archaeological heritage with landscape, which would be effectively done through HLC. Likewise, the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 includes objectives for preserving the landscape. These requirements must be seen not only in the light of the integrated definition of landscape in the European Landscape Convention, but also the EU and national requirement for environmental assessment (both at strategic and project level), which is a further indicator for the integrated approach that HLC provides.

The potential benefits of HLC can be realised through a wide range of different applications:

- Strategic planning
- Development management
- Conservation management
- Outreach and education
- Academic research
- Increasing the public understanding of historic landscape

In considering why HLC should be undertaken it is important to be clear as to what status the study will have and how widely it can contribute to environmental management. Even if primarily designed to feed into a larger landscape characterisation or environmental assessment through formal planning processes, there will be other initiatives to promote sustainability to which it can contribute. Examples of potential applications and inputs include:

- Formally adopted planning guidance or supporting formal guidance (e.g. as part of the input to formal LCA or design guidelines)
- Part of a formal SEA or EIA or a supporting document for master planning
- Part of the formal strategy for allocating agri-environment support or informal information behind such a strategy
- Part of a Conservation Plan or background research
- An academic study in its own right or one contributory element to a broader study

HLC outputs can be designed to meet the varying needs of different user groups such as:

- Planners and planning consultants
- Developers
- Land managers
- Landscape specialists
- Heritage specialists (archaeologists, conservation officers etc)
- Academic researchers
- Community groups

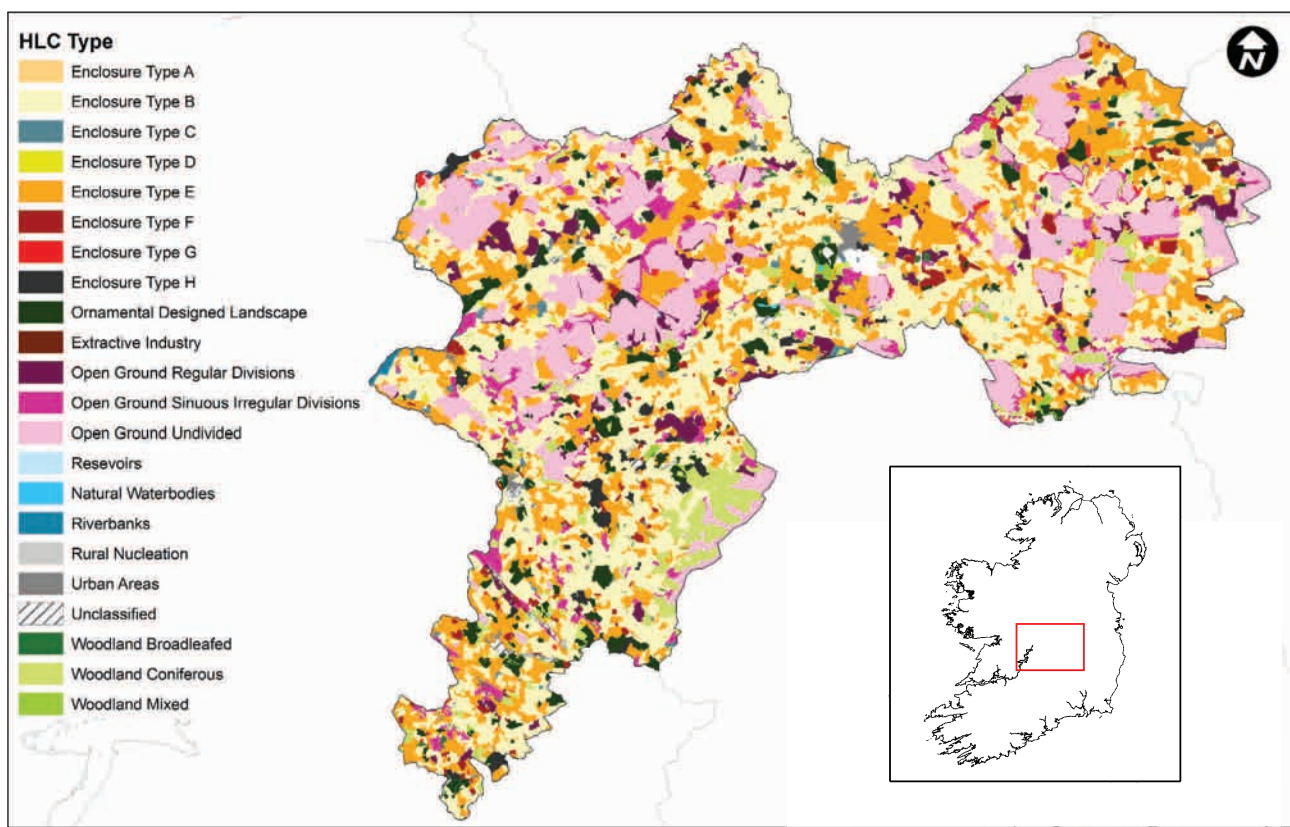
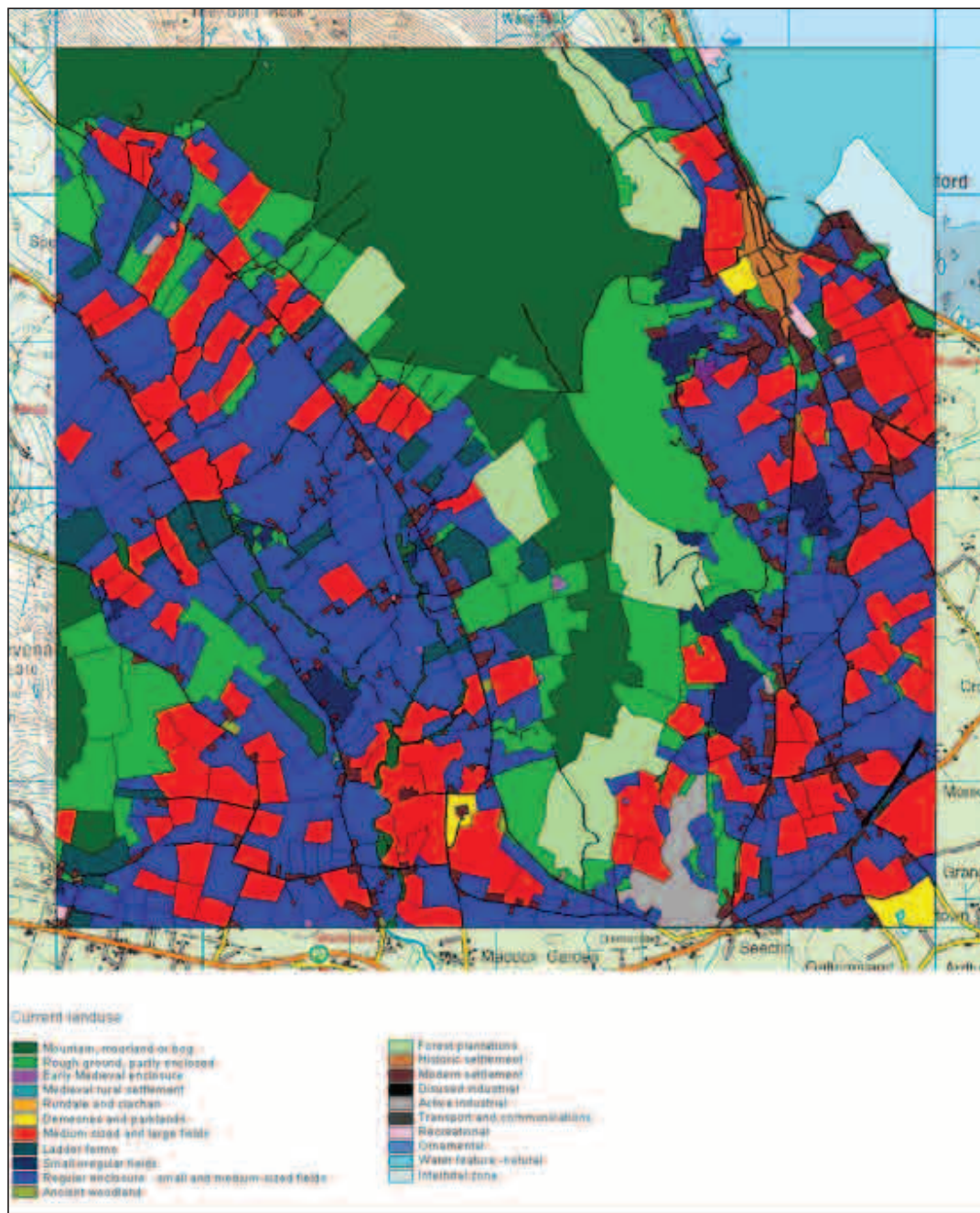


Figure 3 (a): County Offaly as characterised by the EU funded Pathways to European Cultural Landscapes project. This was an early testing of HLC in Ireland, providing a characterisation for counties Offaly, Westmeath and Laois. (b) The Archaeological Landscapes Project based in the School of Archaeology in UCD examined the use of HLC as a means of examining the cultural landscape. The Cooley peninsula in Co Louth was characterised, including this area to the west of Carlingford at the scale of individual fields or land parcels.



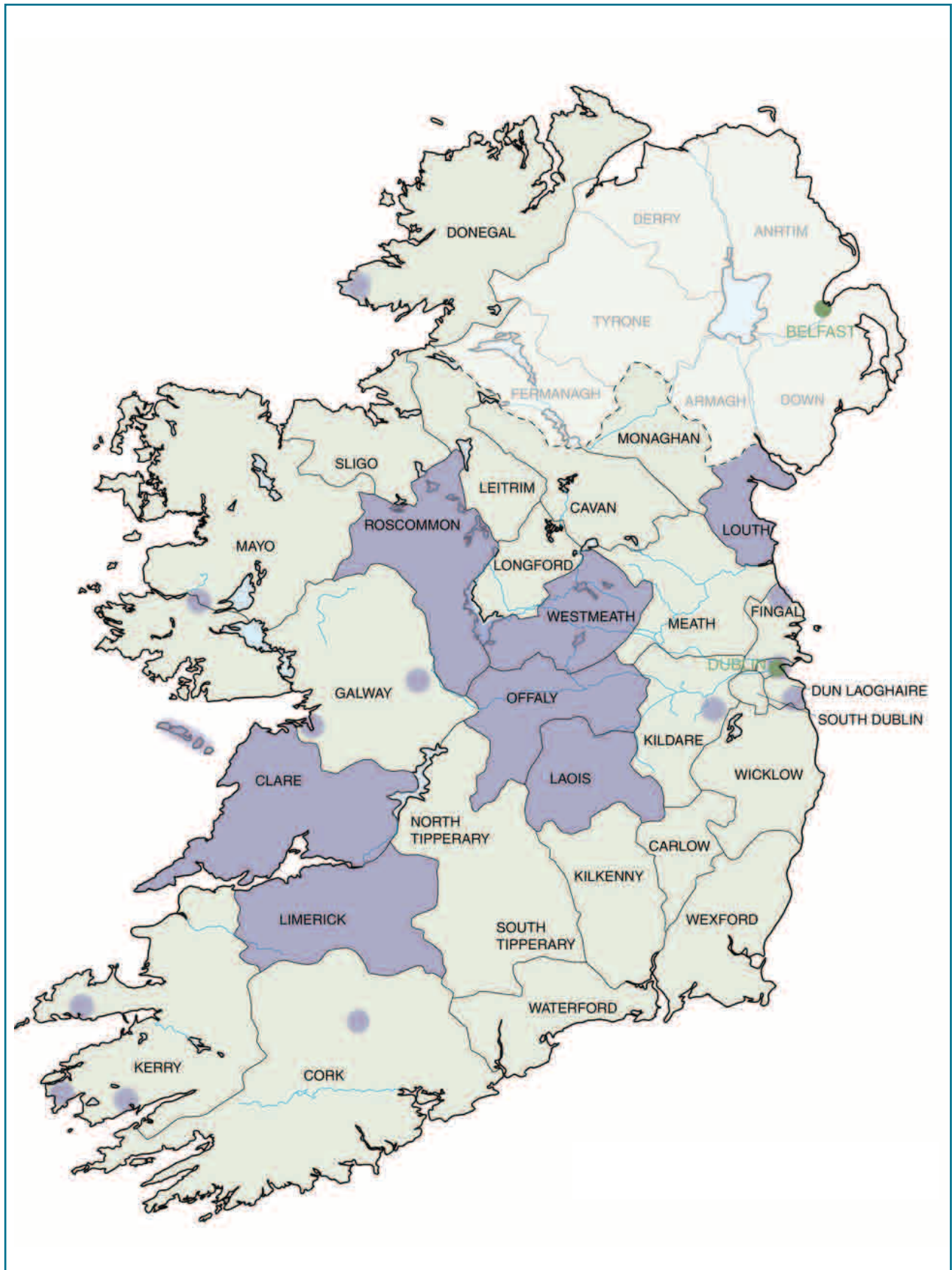


Figure 4: Areas where HLC has been carried out in Ireland to date

Purpose and scope

This guidance document is intended to inform development of landscape policy and to provide local authorities, other official bodies and HLC practitioners with advice on best practice. It is not intended to act as a technical handbook, providing details of methodology, but sets out the principles and broad approach which should be followed across a wide range of applications and scales of study.

The guidance is not prescriptive because historic characterisation can be undertaken at widely different scales and for many different purposes and applications. However, while not seeking to impose a uniform approach, the guidance does seek to establish some common principles and standards of historic characterisation that should ensure the achievement of two important goals:

1. HLC must be fit for purpose – this includes the primary uses for which it was designed and the range of possible secondary uses or applications.
2. HLC must be consistent – it requires sufficient consistency of approach across different scales of assessment to provide a relatively seamless characterisation of large areas from separate studies.

This document has been prepared in the light of a review of past HLC projects in Ireland (including some area-specific reviews of approaches), most of which have been undertaken for or with the support of the Heritage Council. No comparable overarching policy guidance in a single document yet exists in Ireland or the UK, where HLC (and HLA in Scotland) has largely been carried out within nationally-funded programmes with their own internal guidance, or by contractors working on ad hoc projects for developer or local authority clients.

The preparation of this guidance has benefited from consultation through a professional focus group involving a range of experienced practitioners in Ireland and the UK. It has also benefited from comparison with English, Scottish and Welsh practice and guidance.

The document will be reviewed and updated on at least a five-year basis in the light of further experience and practical application in areas such as strategic planning, development management, conservation management, outreach and education, and academic research. Review may be required sooner to accommodate major changes in relevant legislation.

This guidance is intended to have a broad application. Key points are:

- The contribution HLC can make to improving coverage of cultural heritage on a landscape scale
- The value of considering generic character, rather than point data, for strategic purposes
- The potential for ensuring much more effective consideration of the cumulative effects of numerous but individually insignificant small changes
- The potential for capturing what people especially value about their own environment and sense of place, recognising the value of historic character and patina, not just formally designated places
- HLC is a powerful vehicle to consider the inter-relationships between heritage, topography, wildlife, and visual and other perceptions of landscape, in a manner that more closely reflects the public's experience of their surroundings than the artificial academic and professional silos into which these topics are conventionally divided

Structure

The guidance is structured so that it can be used to develop and execute specific projects, which may differ significantly in purpose, scale and in the type of environment assessed.

It follows four essential stages:

- Stage A: Defining the overall rationale of the study
- Stage B: Mapping and description
- Stage C: Analysis and assessment
- Stage D: Management issues and recommendations

While many studies will seek to complete all the stages of assessment, some may be taken through only the initial stages and others might pick up at a later stage when the baseline characterisation is complete, or when implications have been assessed. For example, it may often be appropriate to take an initial specialist study to the end of Stage B, leaving subsequent stages to be part of other initiatives requiring a wider range of inputs, such as developing broader landscape characterisations, preparing design guidelines, development plan zoning, and Strategic Environmental Assessments.

The guidance also covers general issues that need to be considered in relation to all these stages:

- General Issues: Data management, access and presentation

Under these broad topics, the guidelines set out particular issues and approaches that must be considered. Each of these raises further questions to be addressed in planning and conducting characterisation studies. The guidance is presented in response to these questions.

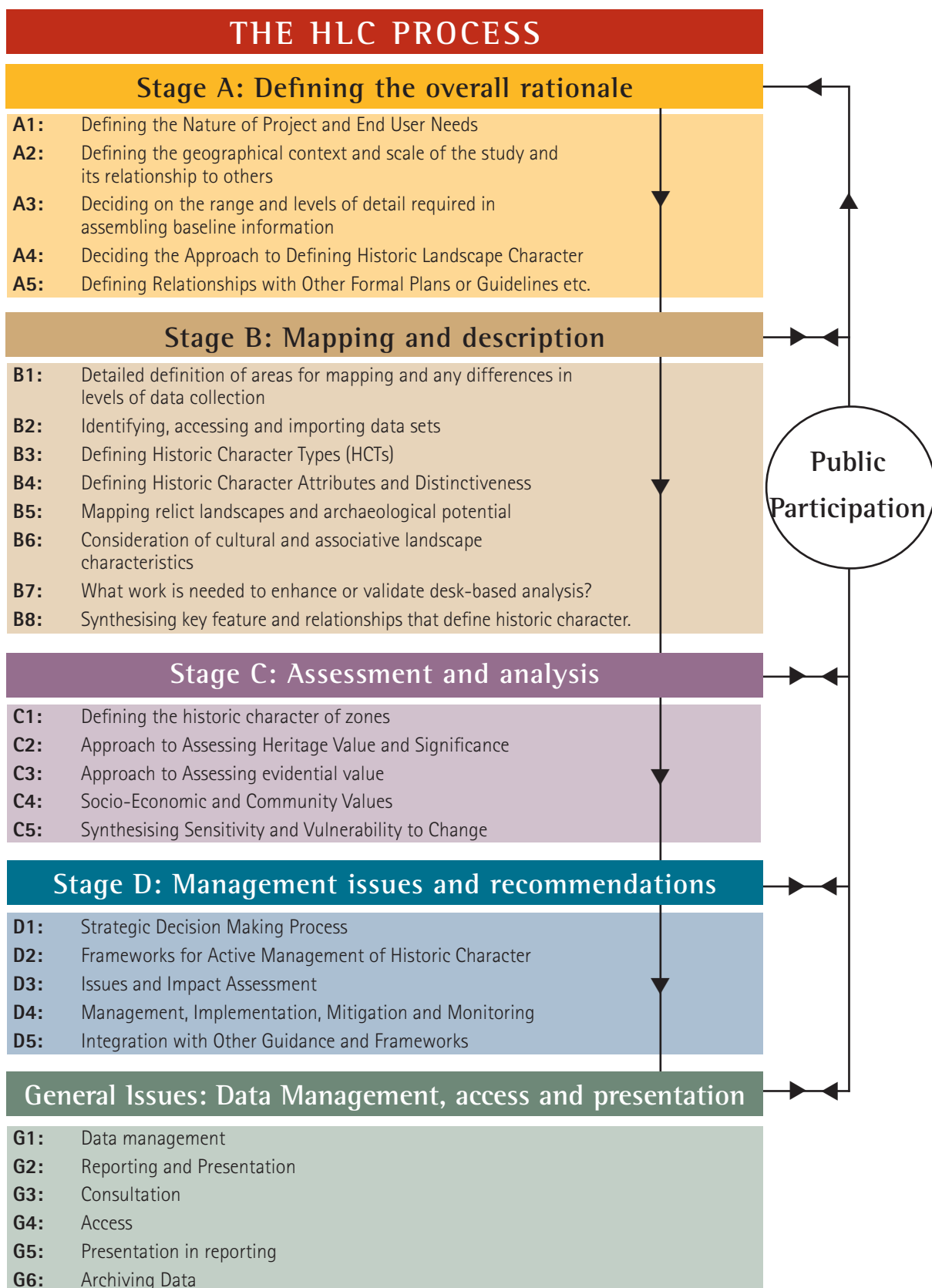


Figure 5: The HLC process

STAGE A: DEFINING THE OVERALL RATIONALE

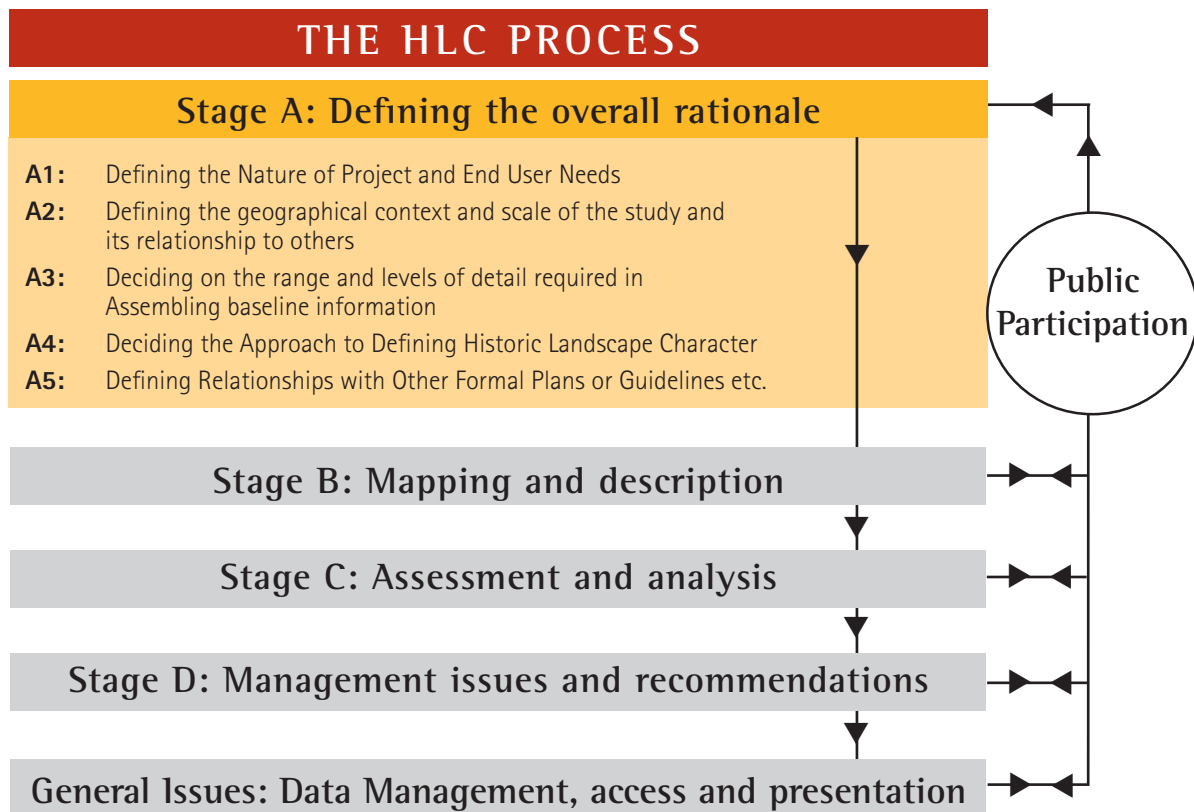


Figure 6: Stage A of the HLC process

A1: Defining the nature of project and end user needs

Is the project an HLC or LCA or a combination of the two?

Historic Landscape Characterisation and Landscape Character Assessment are different ways of characterising the same area, although neither presents a complete view. Each can make a valuable contribution to the other and, together with ecological and other inputs, will contribute to a holistic landscape assessment. However, the baseline data and analysis applied in HLC tends to be at a much more detailed level of resolution than is usual for LCA.

In deciding the methodological approach it is important to be clear whether the HLC will be used as an independent resource in its own right; as a parallel study complementing an LCA; or as an integrated strand of a general landscape characterisation project.

What is it for and what are the likely subsidiary uses?

HLC has a range of potential uses. These are likely to require different kinds of information, data management, analysis and presentation. It is important to be clear exactly what the key uses are to ensure that the end product will be fit-for-purpose.

How do issues that arise from intended use(s) affect the specific information that will need to be gathered to make the study useful? How far might a focus on such issues limit use for other purposes?

Understanding the decisions that HLC will help to inform is important in determining specific information requirements. Such decisions might include:

- Allocation of land for different types of development – to respect areas with well-preserved and distinctive historic character and to regenerate degraded areas
- Determining routes for linear infrastructure to avoid and/or minimise impact on distinctive, well-preserved areas of historic character
- Deciding what and where agri-environment support is likely to have most benefit
- Developing guidance or master plans to ensure that the location and layout of new development respects and complements local historic character
- Input to design guidelines and development management showing how areas differ in historic character – this might influence choices of siting, proportion and materials

Bearing in mind the kinds of decision that HLC will help to inform, what are the general issues that make the area distinctive?

- Settlement form, density, scale and layout are as important as age, architectural style and materials in defining the historic character of settlements
- Different types of industry give rise to distinctive forms and scales of building – historic industrial processes often determine complex layouts and inter-relationships between historic structures and other landscape features
- Rural field patterns rely not just on pattern and boundary morphology in plan view, but also the form of boundaries and their vegetation, and how far they have survived later clearance and improvement
- Townlands, parishes and demesne lands very often reflect the range of resources that were available and how they have been exploited historically – patterns of tenure have not only shaped overall landscape character, both in farming systems and urban growth, but continue to influence change
- Understanding rarity and other values is not just a matter of statistical analysis but also recognition of particular topographical, historical or cultural relationships that make places distinctive – recognising this relies on combining specific strands of topography, landcover, historical and cultural data
- In coastal and off shore areas, historic relationships between land and sea for navigation, trade, fishing and other activities give rise to special qualities and aspects of landscape, townscape and seascape

What heritage and wider environmental values and principles need to be considered to ensure that the methodology and criteria adopted are useful and focus on key issues?

Historic characterisation is, in many respects, a method of characterising past and ongoing change brought about by human society. It is of value not just for understanding patterns of past change, but also in shaping the future to ensure sustainability of the historic environment. Key principles of heritage management need to be considered in order to focus the study on useful outcomes. These include consideration of:

- What makes the character of places of 'special' interest (age / period, rarity, survival / preservation, group value, vulnerability, associative attributes, amenity and recreation)
- How places are valued (evidential, historical, cultural, community, economic significance)
- How change is to be considered (trajectories of change; capacity for change; threats and vulnerability; precautionary principle)

How will the needs of user groups vary?

HLC outputs are easier to use when they are presented appropriately for different user groups

- Clarity in levels of presentation (broad-brush or summary, detailed description, technical data)
- Define levels of IT accessibility suited to different user skills
- Consider the need for a guidance note or manual
- Consider the need for technical training

How will the public become engaged?

There are four particular reasons for the public to be involved in HLC studies. The role of public involvement is to:

- Help provide understanding of the history of an area through local knowledge or research
- Help define how and what historic characteristics of places are valued
- Identify issues of concern about pressures on the historic character of places
- Provide a forum for outreach and education and involvement in conservation

Different levels and kinds of public engagement may be more or less appropriate for different scales and purposes of study, and most likely to be especially useful at relatively local scales.

Methods of engagement will vary, including public consultative meetings, focus groups, social media fora, questionnaires and leaflets.

A2: Defining the geographical context and scale of the study and its relationship to others

What is the basis for defining the study area?

The purpose of the study will often determine whether the area to be covered is defined by administrative boundaries (a county, city or development plan area) or if it is a geographically defined area (a search area for suitable development sites, or a research project).

What scale?

The scale of the study, as well as its purpose and scope, will influence how it should be approached and what can be achieved. This will be referred to in more detail at several points below, but at this stage it is important to define and recognise the issues that arise and how they will be addressed.

In broad terms the main differences of scale can be grouped as follows:

- National and regional
- Sub-regional and county
- Large sub-county and district areas; large scale linear infrastructure
- Local areas, urban quarters, and estates

Although there are no sharp divisions, at a practical level the scale of a project does demand different kinds and levels of information. It is important to make sure the scale of the study is appropriate for the purposes of the end users, while also being cost-effective (see A4 below). Consider the implications of scale in relation to other potential uses of the study and in relationship to studies at different scales or neighbouring areas:

- Do other potential uses by the same organisation or supported by others justify the chosen scale?
- Is data assembled for a national or county level study suitable for local initiatives and vice versa?
- How will the survey need to deal with any distinctions between urban, rural, coastal and marine environments?
- Does the study overlap with, or abut, HLC coverage of neighbouring areas? If so what are the implications for compatibility of scale and approach?
- Does the study involve 'nesting' of scale with separate studies (Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) within urban areas; local or district areas within counties)?

A3: Deciding on the range and levels of detail required in assembling baseline information

What information needs to be captured as baseline evidence?

If the HLC is to characterise areas successfully from an historical perspective it is necessary to consider what baseline evidence is required. This will vary to some extent with the purpose and scale of the study, but the following can be regarded as fairly standard requirements:

- Topographical context (geology, landform, drainage, coastal and marine environment)
- Historic landuse (historical use / function and habitats of historic value)
- Morphology of field enclosure (field and boundary shapes); village and urban settlement forms, street plans and building plots
- Form of boundaries (physical form and vegetation); type of historic building materials used in vernacular architecture
- Chronology (map, documentary or archaeological/ typological evidence)
- Historical and archaeological background including the distribution of archaeological sites and monuments and protected structures
- Historic tenure and administration (townland, parish, demesne, urban estate)
- Cultural attributes (place names, historical, traditional, religious, literary, artistic associations)



Figure 7: (a) Ordnance Survey vertical aerial photograph of the Balbriggan, Co Dublin, HLC area

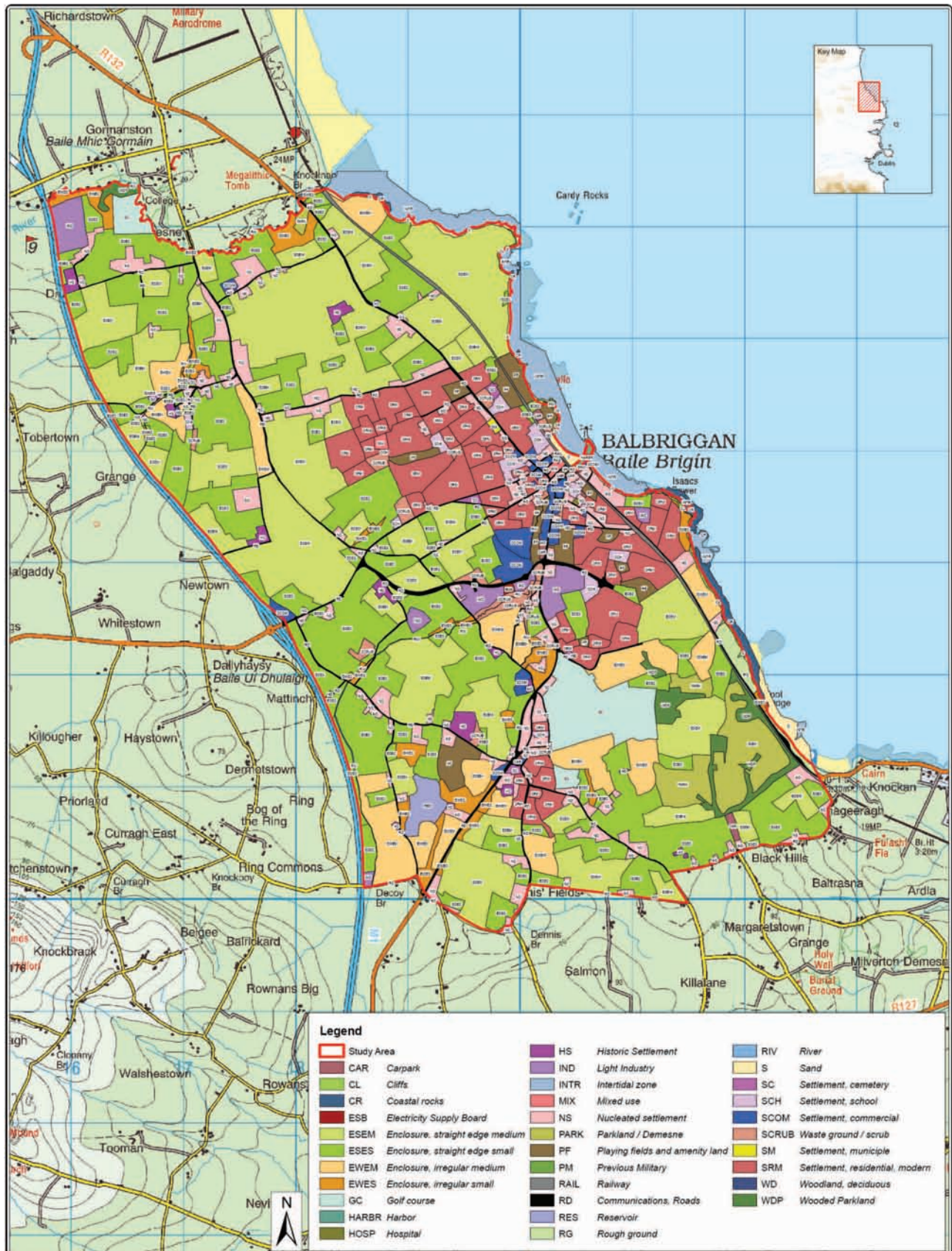


Figure 7: (b) HLC land use types for Balbriggan



Figure 8: Historic maps such as this one of Dungannon, Co Tyrone, dating from c 1609 help to provide an insight into the evolution of an area

What factors determine the level of detail?

In addition to deciding what information needs to be captured to inform the characterisation, there are also important decisions to be made about what range and levels of data need to be gathered, assembled and analysed.

Much of this depends on practical issues governing the scale of the study and the resources and time scale available to carry it out, but also concerns what issues are to be covered. There is no single answer to this and certainly no 'one-size fits all' solution. The best way to decide levels of information needed is to consider very carefully how the results of the study will be used. What sort of decisions should it be capable of informing (see A1)?

Does the whole area need to be covered at the same level of detail and in the same manner?

For studies of small areas there is seldom any merit in adopting a tiered approach that treats some localities in more detail than others. But for large areas, even where an HLC study seeks to fulfil a range of purposes, a combination of generalised overall characterisation with more detailed analysis of specific areas or issues can be a cost effective approach.

For some applications a tiered approach may mean establishing a framework at a general level within which more detailed analysis would follow. For example a wide area HLC might do no more than contribute to defining the criteria for identifying areas of least constraint for a particular type of development, which would only be assessed in detail at a subsequent stage of analysis.

How would a tiered approach fit into existing frameworks?

National and regional development and rural management strategies tend to focus on particular areas, geographical criteria or issues:

- Key aspects of socio-economic infrastructure which will be the focus of future development (major settlements, communication routes, industrial centres, ports)
- Key natural resources for exploitation (minerals, aggregates, wind, peat, offshore oil and gas)
- Geographical criteria to define areas for major development (waste and incinerator plants, forestry)
- The geographical footprint of key issues needing to be addressed (drainage infrastructure improvement, agri-environment policy for rural diversification and landscape conservation)

Research programmes at a national, regional or county level typically adopt an elaborate tiered approach based on principles of recognising areas of high potential and carrying out a range of increasingly detailed investigations. These may include:

- Broad-brush geographical definition of issues and results of previous research
- Analysis of archaeological or architectural history data to identify areas of special interest
- Combining characterisation, survey and historical studies to define the context of localities warranting detailed fieldwork and other site-specific research

If some areas are to be covered in more detail than others, how will this vary?

Three main issues need to be considered to ensure that levels of coverage are cost-effective:

- Kinds of approach based on choice of mapping units (see A4 below)
- Levels of data gathering and descriptive mapping and explanation of historic character
- Levels of analysis of issues and presentation

If a tiered approach is adopted, options for 'nesting' detailed analysis within a more general level of treatment need to be considered for each of these issues. Such 'nesting' must not preclude analysis or further future work to achieve a more uniform approach:

- Detailed description and analysis must be capable of being used, discussed and presented at the more generalised level
- Generalised levels of coverage should allow scope for more detailed subdivision and future analysis without the generalities being invalidated.

A4: Deciding the approach to defining Historic Landscape Character

What mapping units should be considered for defining areas of common historic character?

Three approaches to mapping units have been used in Ireland to date:

- Historic Landscape Character Units: groups of land parcels where one or more particular historic landscape attributes or 'types' predominate

- Past Resource Management Units: historic spatial units such as townlands, or other historic landholdings or administrative units (estates, parishes), or groups of such units that share a common range of historic landscape attributes
- Present-day Resource Management Units: pre-defined geographical units relevant to present day management (Landscape Character Areas or Types; Architectural Conservation Areas; farming estates or other management units)

What are the pros and cons of these different approaches to identifying and mapping historic character?

Each of these is valid and one may be more appropriate than another for different purposes. They are also not mutually exclusive (especially in GIS applications). The land parcel approach is usually the most detailed level of mapping and results can be synthesised in various ways to characterise larger entities, including townlands and modern management areas.

Choosing between these approaches requires consideration of a number of further conceptual and practical issues:

1. A distinct strength of characterisation by Historic Landscape Character Units is the relative ease of grouping small areas with common attributes into larger ones. Subdividing larger entities into a more detailed level of resolution may entail considerable reworking. However, at a practical level, characterisation by Historic Landscape Character Units can be very time-consuming when applied to large areas (especially if several detailed distinctions of morphology are entailed) and this may not serve key management issues or user needs. There is a serious danger that time is spent mapping distinctions that do not matter much over large areas. There is also a risk of inadequately distinguishing important specific characteristics in quite small areas where future change is most likely.
2. A major advantage of the approach based on Past Resource Management Units is that it reflects historically meaningful ways that land was managed in the past and which still resonate in the present. This can be important in terms of how landscape character and diversity resonates with people's sense of place. The approach needs to be based on identifying characteristic mixtures of historic landuse and other attributes (shared settlement pattern, soils or topography) that were the basis of historical access to different resources; assigning townlands to a single predominant landuse type can significantly diminish the strength of the approach.

A practical difficulty of this approach is that it has an intrinsic tendency to define units which cross geological, topographical, ecological, and landuse boundaries that typically form the basis for other kinds of characterisation. This may be problematic for assimilation into general landscape studies, but may also be a powerful means of enriching such studies with a different perspective on issues of identity and sense of place.
3. Approaches based on Present-day Resource Management Units have the advantage of potentially helping to focus attention on the issues that need to be addressed and may be easier to assimilate into other studies (LCAs, design guidelines). A possible disadvantage is that this may be less than ideal in capturing the key historical influences that have influenced past change and may provide only a rather partial picture. There is a danger that the result may be a superficial assimilation of historic attributes and features into a non-historical perspective on landscape rather than making a fundamental contribution to understanding long-term landscape change from the past into the future.

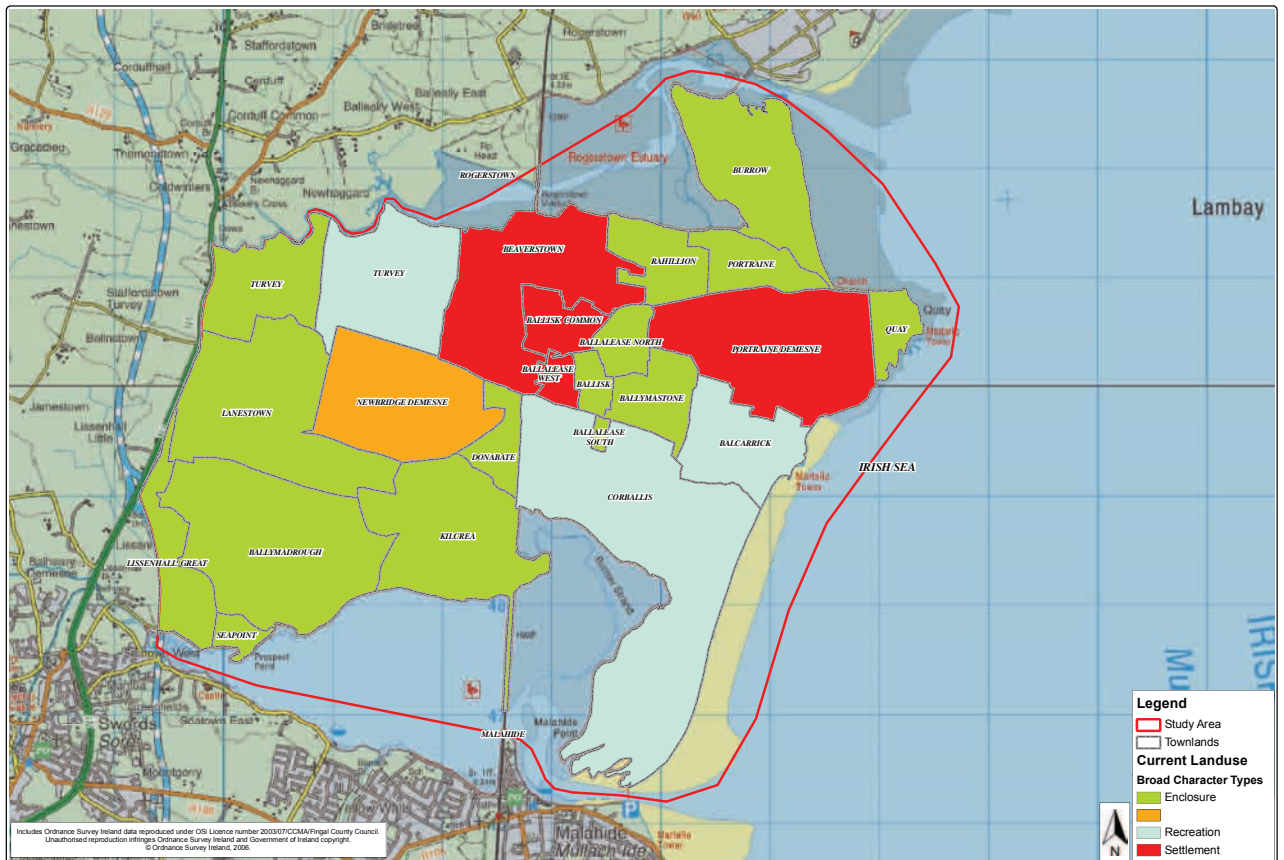
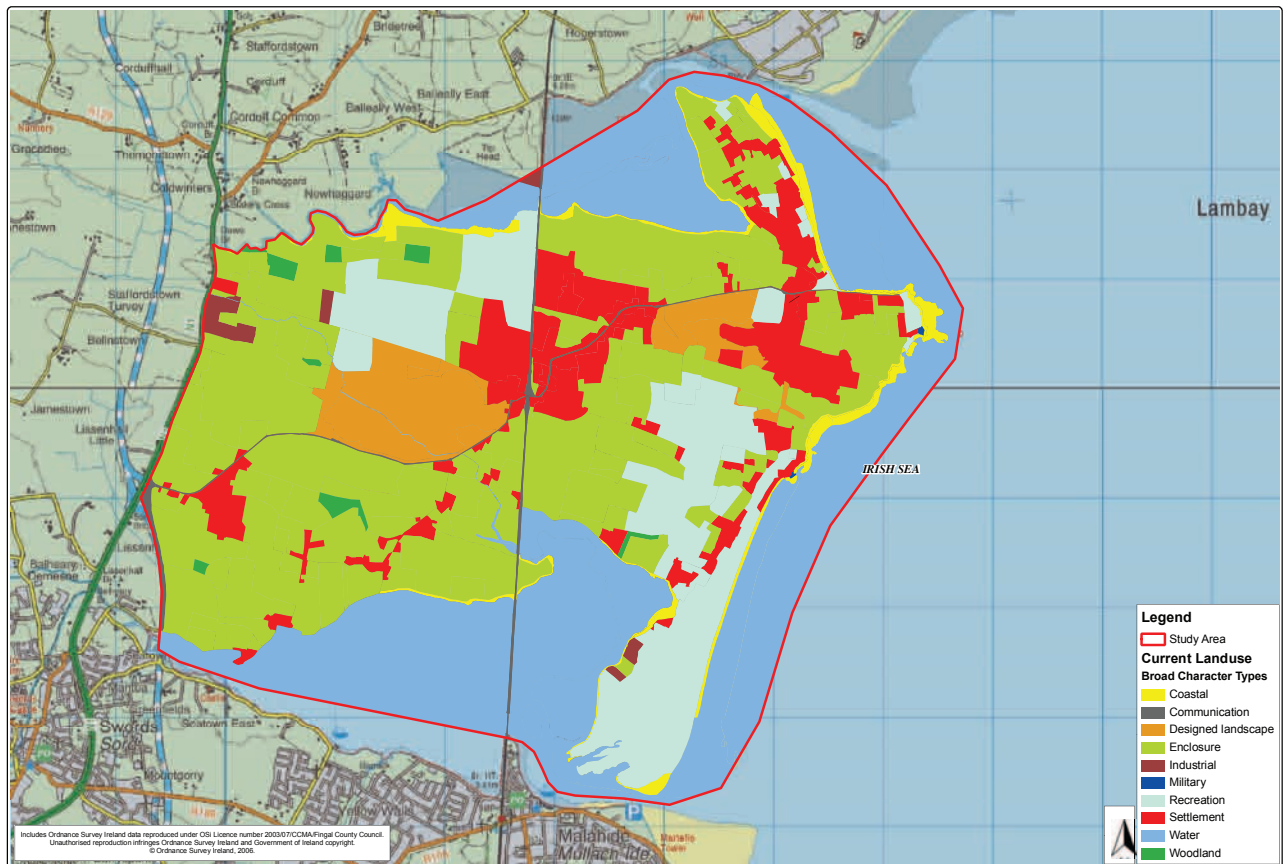


Figure 9: Comparison of characterisation by land parcel and townland for Donabate, Co Dublin showing in (a) characterisation by land parcels or fields and (b) by townlands

How can a coherent approach to characterisation be finalised?

Often a mixed approach may work best, depending on scale and purpose. Previous studies in Ireland and the UK have shown that it is often helpful to conduct a pilot study for a sample area before finalising the approach. This allows assumptions to be tested and practicalities of data gathering, assimilation and mapping to be refined. This especially applies to studies covering large areas, and studies where tiered levels of data-gathering and different approaches to mapping character are envisaged.

A5: Defining relationships with other formal plans or guidelines

How will relationships with LCA, SEAs, EIAs, conservation planning or research projects work in practical terms of how data is organised and presented?

Apart from being clear about the basic nature and status of the study (see A1 to A4 above) it is also necessary to be clear about how information can readily be extracted for various uses. This includes for example:

- HLC studies should ideally be fully integrated into the approach needed for an LCA to ensure that key HLC issues are carried forward into the more general landscape characterisation process and key issues remain clear in final conclusions or recommendations
- 'Stand-alone' HLC studies should be structured so that they can make a valuable contribution to later LCA work by ensuring that key characteristics and issues can be captured within the LCA process
- Where LCAs already exist, HLC can build on and enrich the results by providing a fuller historic characterisation of pre-determined landscape character types or areas
- HLC should be capable of informing development plans in terms of land allocations for development – both in terms of key strategic planning issues (settlement form and scale, sensitivity to large scale infrastructure, etc) and incremental loss of character.
- HLC should enable SEA requirements by informing what policies and supporting guidance is needed to ensure that regeneration respects and builds on valued historic character
- HLC should be capable of feeding directly into urban or rural design guidelines that seek to ensure that new development respects the detailed sensitivity of historic characteristics
- For local agri-environment grants and conservation planning it is important to define what sort of measures are eligible for support or are achievable through improved management, and how these mechanisms could be harnessed to manage pressures for change in ways that maintain historic character, which may also achieve desirable goals for wider landscape and nature conservation
- For academic research, integrating HLC into studies investigating the history, landscape archaeology, palaeoenvironment or geography of an area or theme will provide fresh insight into issues and raise new questions that can be tested by fieldwork
- HLC should provide a wider and more varied landscape context for historic environment resources such as Records of Protected Structures, Recorded Monuments and National Monuments

STAGE B MAPPING AND DESCRIPTION

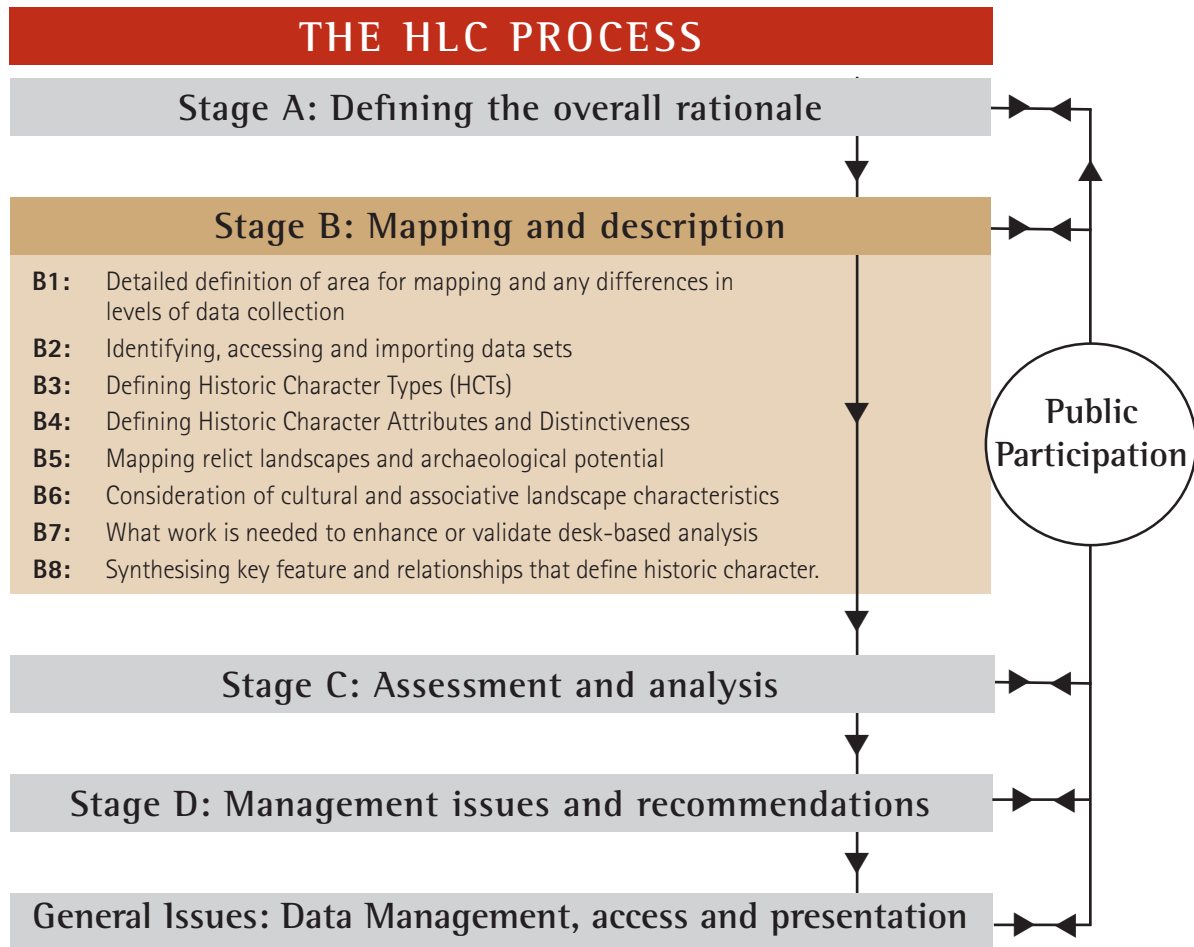


Figure 10: Stage B of the HLC process

Having defined the parameters of the study, the next stage is to undertake basic mapping and description. This relies on retrieving and marshalling relevant data from which the geographical mapping and description of historic landscape character is carried out. This is an interpretative process but does not, at this stage, assign relative value to areas or consider the possible effect of future change. This stage of analysis consists of four main sub-stages:

- Detailed definition of areas for mapping and levels of data collection
- Identifying accessing and importing data sets
- Deciding Historic Landscape Character types or attributes
- Defining, describing and mapping Historic Landscape Character

Although visual images are a very effective means of conveying information, historic character mapping is insufficient on its own: it must be supported by appropriate text and photographs to convey how character has been identified and indicate what it looks like.

B1: Detailed definition of areas for mapping and any differences in levels of data collection

What area(s) does the study cover and must this be subdivided to allow different levels of detail?

Defining the study area, both in map form and through the definition of outer co-ordinates, is important to ensure that consistent coverage is achieved. In many cases – especially for local authority administrative areas or area planning – this is a simple matter of defining a single area. But sometimes more complex spatial approaches are required:

- Multiple areas may be needed to consider widely dispersed options for regional infrastructure (different road schemes, waste processing, quarries, forestry, windfarms)
- Nested areas (to be analysed at different levels of detail) may be desirable, especially for large scale strategic planning – for example, distinguishing detailed analysis of the areas allocated for development from the wider HLC of a strategic plan area
- In both these cases, it is important that coverage around the specific area should be large enough to provide a clear idea of its wider context

Considerable care needs to be given to achieving consistency of data collection and analysis, and to ensuring that detailed analysis is consistent with broader brush character.

B2: Identifying, accessing and importing data sets

What datasets/ sources need to be accessed developed and used to create baseline data?

This may vary with the scale of the study – different data sets will be required for national, regional, county, local area or detailed-locality studies. For a nested approach, additional sets of data or more detailed levels of information may be needed for the areas to be studied in greater detail.

An indicative range of data sources typically needing to be considered at different levels is set out in Appendix A below. This includes: modern map base; vertical air photography; LIDAR or other remote sensing imagery; geology and soils; historic maps; built environment and designed landscape records; archaeological records; placenames; townland and other historic boundaries; habitats and nature reserves; and maritime data.

Data Sources	Details
Existing Landuse Information	
Study area outline	Predefined study area limits
Ordnance Survey mapping Digital Aerial Photography Digital Elevation Model	Current edition (2000) (1:1000 & 1:2500)
	O.S. discovery Series mapping (1:50,000)
	2005 (20cm resolution)
	1995 (1m resolution black and white O.S.) (not useful)
	Height information derived from contours
Soils Mapping	GSI Ireland
Geology Mapping	GSI Ireland
Land division (sourced from OS Mapping)	Townland boundaries Field boundaries
Pre-existing GIS mapping layers	Development plan 2005-2011
Local Area Plan mapping	Donabate local area plan
Planning application mapping	APASS data available since 1992
Google Earth	Visual inspection to supplement digital aerial photography OS mapping
Relict Landuse Information	
Topographical Files	National Museum of Ireland
RMP for Dublin	Archaeological Survey of Ireland, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
RPS data	Fingal County Council
Place names data	Place names, field names and street names
O.S mapping	1st edition 6 inch scale (1837-1843) 1935-1938 digital six inch raster)
Historical Mapping	Down survey - 1654 Rocque - 1760 Taylor - 1816
Bathometry Data	Coastal Survey mapping, shipwreck inventory, admiralty charts
Details of pervious excavations and assessments	Excavations database (www.excavations.ie)

Figure 11: Sources used in the compilation of the Donabate HLC

What other data might be useful?

Other sources of data that may be of value for particular studies at various scales include

- Documentary and secondary historical sources
- Other survey data (LCA; design guidelines; management plans; ACA appraisals)
- Strategic policy reviews on different aspects of heritage and landscape

B3 Defining Historic Character Types (HCTs)

What Historic Landscape Character Types need to be distinguished and mapped in a HLC unit (land parcel) approach?

A key principle of defining Historic Character Types is to distinguish those that are (a) historically distinctive and (b) display forms and features that clearly add to understanding and inform practical conservation needs.

It is not very helpful to define types that can be mapped morphologically but, for practical purposes, have little or no historic distinctiveness. Equally it can be actively unhelpful to fail to distinguish distinctive historic characteristics that should influence future change. For example:

- Elaborate morphologies of boundary character, shape and sizes of field enclosure may be of little practical relevance to management but can be important in establishing historical significance and hence sensitivity
- The form of boundaries (hedges, walls and variants and their condition) can be a vital part of their historic character in addition to the morphology of enclosure and may be especially relevant to future management
- The morphology of settlements, as well as the architectural styles, can be critical aspects of their historical origins and character that are very relevant to how new residential development fits in

Appendix B (below) provides a table that indicates a broad framework of Historic Character Types. In keeping with established practice in Ireland and elsewhere, the most basic divisions reflect various current landuses within which different historical origins and changes can be seen to have influenced present day landscape character.

Within these generalised landuse distinctions ('Levels' in Appendix B) some very broad subdivisions are suggested, based on attributes of morphology, form and likely period of origin. These are likely to apply to most parts of Ireland. They are intended to help achieve cross-boundary consistency between studies.

A third level of detailed subdivision (Appendix B: Level 3) indicates more specific distinctions, based on past practice in Ireland. In some categories, notably rural and urban settlement morphology, new distinctions are suggested to facilitate greater sensitivity to broad historic character for strategic planning (whether at county or local master plan level).

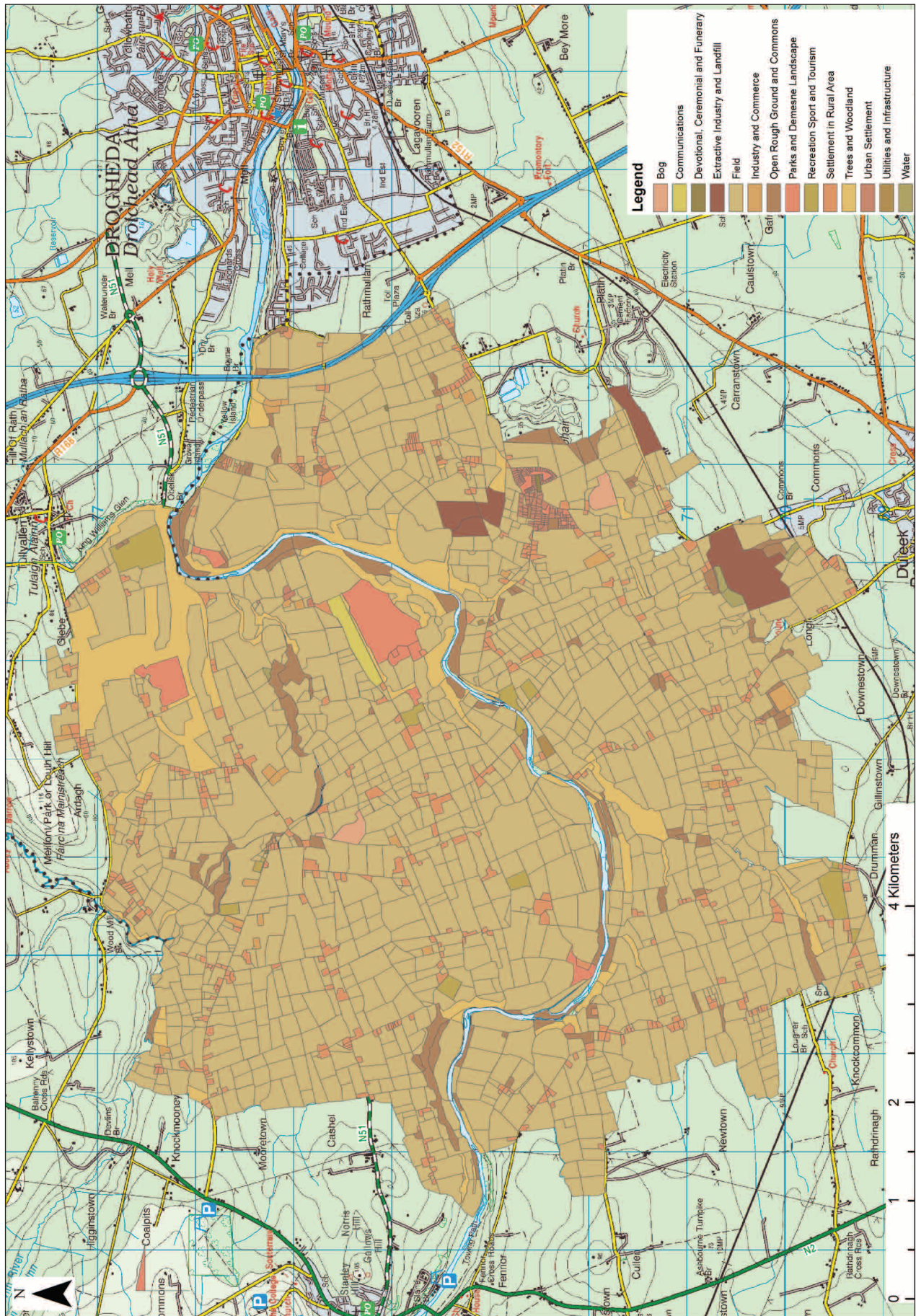


Figure 12 a: Level 1, Broad type HLC, Brú na Boinne World Heritage site, Co Meath (Will Magherry and Meath County Council)

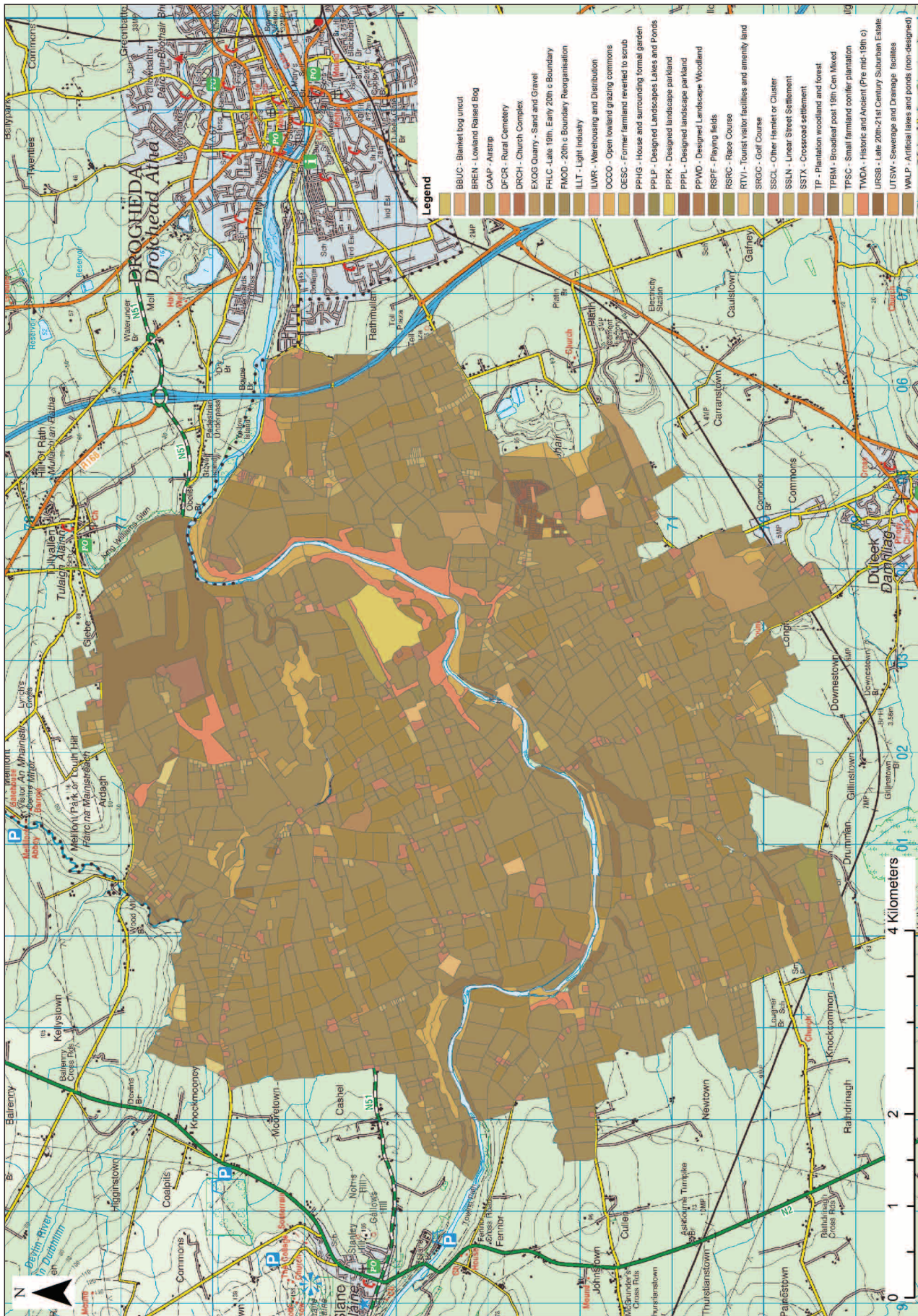


Figure 12 c: Level 3, Specific type HLC, Brú na Boinne World Heritage site, Co Meath (Willi Magherry and Meath County Council)

How should historic character be defined using past resource management units (townlands) as the mapping unit?

The essence of this approach is to capture how mixed landuses that supported communities developed through time and have left their mark in the present landscape. This can either be considered in terms of general historical geography, or defined on the basis of mapping the historic character of land parcel groups (as above), using a Geographic Information System (GIS) to analyse the mixture of types occurring within the townland or other unit. GIS can also be used to group townlands according to recurrently similar combinations of types.

Where more detailed historical studies are possible – or have already been carried out – it may be possible to define townlands in terms of particular kinds of farming system, or a period of landscape resettlement and reorganisation of land.

In some of these respects, characterisation may be of use in testing historical evidence – the detailed character of nineteenth-century land re-organisation or, for a larger picture, examining whether earlier enforced resettlement has left a lasting legacy in landscape character (Smyth 2006).

How should historic character be defined using present-day resource management areas as the mapping unit?

Both the above approaches can be applied to map historic character within the framework of units based on other land divisions and used to characterise their historic diversity and common characteristics.

Alternatively, rather than trying to map types in detail it may be more appropriate (especially for small local areas such as Architectural Conservation Areas, Local Area Plans etc) to describe the historic character of the area in simple terms explaining its key historic attributes. This approach needs not only to explain the morphological variety, but also probable origins and evolution and key attributes (see below).

How does the approach differ for Seascapes?

The general principles which apply to landscape characterisation do extend into seascapes, but with some specific differences.

- Additional sources of data for the maritime environment must be consulted (see Appendix A; English Heritage/Cornwall County Council 2008)
- The methodology must be adapted to take into account the lack of fixed boundaries, such as roads or land ownership extents, within the marine environment
- Special consideration needs to be given to dealing with multiple vertical levels and the dynamic nature of the natural environment using a 'tiered' GIS spatial data model (the sub-sea floor, sea floor, water column, sea surface)
- Particular consideration also needs to be given to the inter-tidal zone and the exercise of historic rights to its resources
- The historic character of adjacent coastal landscapes with direct maritime associations, need to be considered, not only in terms of the different perspective inherent in the 'view from sea' and historical navigation, but also land-to-sea views and land-to-land views across bays and estuaries, or to and from islands.
- The nature of how offshore development and other activities impinge on the marine and coastal environment, and people's perceptions of its character, will affect what characteristics need to be captured in any assessment



Figure 13: Intrinsic Bay, Kilkee, County Clare so called after a ship named the Intrinsic was wrecked in 1850.

B4: Defining Historic Character attributes and distinctiveness

What is the range of historic attributes that may be important for different purposes?

Historic characterisation of areas relies principally on defining key attributes of:

- Landuse function
- Morphology of layout
- Period of origin and use
- Physical form
- Relict survivals

The ways in which particular physical features and relationships between them define key historic characteristics of the area needs to be clearly explained in descriptions of the HC Types and the evolution of the landscape. Emphasis must be given to those features, relationships and attributes that are most significant in defining the character, and to why these characteristics matter.

To some extent, the significance attached to different attributes will vary according to the uses that will be made of the characterisation study. For example:

- Landuse function may be important in relation to changes of use and siting of new development
- Morphology of layout can be especially important in settlement zoning around existing settlements and in siting of development

- Period of origin and use can be especially important in relation to coherence of landscape character and sensitivity to change, as well as understanding
- Physical form can be especially important in relation to agri-environment schemes and rural conservation, design guidelines, and development management
- Relict survival can be especially important in overall quality of time-depth and survival in relation to sensitivity to change, although rarely a principal defining factor for historic character



Figure 14: The ladder fields shown here in Co Clare make a distinctive contribution to local character



Figure 15: The demesne landscape of Strokestown, Co Roscommon stands out from the surrounding field system in this Ordnance Survey vertical aerial photograph

What attributes are included in HCTs and how should they be explained?

As explained above, HC Types tend to be defined on the basis of a combination of historic function, morphology, period and form, but some types are based much more on some of these attributes than others, and none reflect all (the permutations would be too unwieldy to be assimilated properly even for small areas).

Since even a long list of broad HCTs and sub-types does not automatically capture all relevant attributes, some other provision is needed to capture particular historic characteristics that do not define 'types' but may still be important in defining historic character. For example:

- Commonly used HC Types of field enclosure do not indicate the form of boundaries (walls, hedges or dykes) although this may be a highly significant attribute in terms of landscape character
- Settlement character does not pick up vernacular building materials and forms
- Some HC Types embed generalised period attributes but others do not; and compared with historic map or documentary evidence, morphological period typologies are indicative rather than definitive

Apart from general historical descriptions, how should historic attributes be captured?

Two basic means of capturing additional attributes are available: (a) separate layers of mapping and/or (b) descriptive text. Each of these can be applied in more than one way. GIS is an important, but not indispensable aid to both, especially in covering large areas. In combining spatial and descriptive information in the form of polygons, to which text data can be attached, it offers different options for how this issue is approached.

Descriptive text can be used in two ways:

1. General description of areas (townlands or other units) to identify their specific attributes of function, morphology, period, form, or relict survival. These can highlight, in more detail, features of particular interest as a commentary on the typological mapping (alternatively, to record historic attributes additional columns can be added to your HLC attribute table).
2. Adding text-based searchable data to polygons, allowing polygons with the same particular attributes to be retrieved. The scope for doing this is very wide but, for example, adding a 'predominant form' attribute field to polygons would allow types of enclosure to be retrieved and mapped according to their boundary form (hedge, wall, dyke, ditch) whatever their morphological properties. Similarly, a field for 'relict type' would allow retrieval of areas where former historic characteristics are still visible as earthworks.

Separate mapping of particular attributes can similarly be done in different ways:

- As layers showing the distribution of separate attributes
- By creating polygons for areas sharing common attributes

B5: Mapping relict landscapes and archaeological potential

In many areas, features from earlier periods survive as coherent areas of relict earthworks or ruins. Almost any HC Type may occur in a relict form, although not necessarily dominating an area. Such areas add time-depth and historic legibility to the landscape and should be mapped as an extra layer.

However, in some cases, an area of relict features may dominate the historic character of the landscape and can encourage activities such as pilgrimage. In such cases the 'extant' present day character of the landscape may be

much less distinctive and where the 'relict' character is both dominant and had particular historic resonance it should be used to define and map the HCT as a separate area.

Archaeological potential takes more account of buried remains and not just features that are visible on the ground. Evidence from excavations and aerial photographs, combined with standing monuments, will generate a picture of known and potential patterns of sites, but unless these patterns survive as coherent patterns of visible remains (relict landscape), such archaeological potential should be described and, if appropriate, plotted as another layer rather than being used to define historic landscape character.

B6: What consideration should be given to cultural and associative landscape characteristics and how should they be mapped?

What cultural, aesthetic and historical associations need to be recognised as important sensitivities that are not captured directly by HCTs?

There are several aspects of historical and cultural associations with landscape that are broadly abstract in character and are difficult to capture within the Historic Character Types and attributes given above. These include:

- Traditional culture and religion
- Designed landscape views and vistas
- Aesthetic and artistic / literary association
- Historical political association

How can abstract cultural, visual and historic attributes be captured in historic characterisation?

As with other additional attributes, two basic means of capturing additional attributes are available, involving (a) separate layers of mapping and/or (b) descriptive criteria and text. Textual description will often be the principal method of recording abstract values, explaining the kind of added value and sensitivity that they give to an area.

Mapping such attributes is much more difficult as geographical limits are often difficult to define. Nonetheless, the following are some indications of how this can be approached.

- Traditional culture and religion: routes of pilgrimage and annual festivals can often be defined, together with an indicative buffer zone (or other indication) of the extent of the area of sensitivity within the visual ambit of such routes and places
- Designed landscape views and vistas may be mapped as the general visual envelope of a house or other feature and, more particularly, the alignment of particular designed vistas. In detailed studies the routes of intended walks or drives, and associated views and vistas, may be defined. For defence sites and marine pilotage and navigation, similar principles can be applied to define areas within which the visual zone of influence is of particular significance
- Aesthetic and artistic/ literary association is often very difficult to define, but where an area has been especially popular with artists it may be possible to map particular portrayals of the landscape
- Historical or political association is often similarly difficult to define geographically, but it may be possible to map the general area of military campaigns and battlefields and, where it is possible to map areas of settlement displacement or colonisation (Smyth 2006), this may add insight into the character of landscape change

B7: What work is needed to enhance or validate desk-based analysis?

Historic Characterisation is dominated by the vertical map-based view, whereas Landscape Character Assessment is dominated by the horizontal, ground-based visual perspective. On the ground, the visual influence of differences in topography and tree cover, or buildings in an urban context, makes a substantial difference to how the character of places is appreciated. Both perspectives are valid and a key issue for integrated approaches to landscape assessment is to consider how these perspectives can be merged to create a more rounded characterisation. It is also important to consider how local communities perceive the historic character of their area.

What level of fieldwork is required?

An important early step in any characterisation project is to visit the study area and obtain a general appreciation of its visual appearance. As the characterisation progresses it is important that each main character type or general attribute is examined on the ground to gain a clear idea of the relative survival and importance of key features that give the area its character, and to assess how significant these appear to be on the ground.

Observations are also important for assessing the visual prominence of relict features and unimproved landcover and habitats. Fieldwork is also very useful for assessing the character of pressures for change and past impacts (settlement expansion).

Understanding the practicalities of recommended management actions will often be greatly enhanced by field observation.

All fieldwork is usefully supported by systematic record:

- Adequate field notes within a framework of recording different attributes and issues
- Mapping of routes taken
- Photographic record with viewpoints and direction of view recorded (this may include video) Try and incorporate this data into GIS (i.e. record location and orientation of photo location, data can be used later to plot images into GIS).



Figure 16: Good fieldwork is enabled by good preparation, documentation and discussion



Figure 17: Consultation with local community groups and interested organisations brings differing perspectives to bear on a characterisation study and helps to communicate the importance of the landscape

What level of consultation is appropriate?

Consultation is an important ongoing element of the overall characterisation process, feeding into each stage. It should engage with a wide range of stakeholders, ranging from national heritage bodies through to the local community (see Sections C4 and G3).

For the purposes of gathering baseline information at least two strands of consultation can be useful:

- Gaining additional sources of information about historic features and past change in a locality
- Checking what historic features, views and associations resonate most clearly with the public

It should be noted that the HLC process itself has an educative role and that a two-way exchange of information and impressions will enrich understanding for all parties involved.

B8: Synthesising key features and relationships that define historic character

Taking the results of desk studies and field observation together, it should be possible to synthesise the physical features and relationships that define the various historic characteristics identified.

At a generic level (defining recurrent Historic Character Types) key features and relationships should be identified for each HC Type or other mapping unit. These might include vegetation, topography, monuments, types of settlement pattern, styles of vernacular architecture, agricultural practice, shape and size of enclosure, and how a combination of such features reflect historic interrelationships. Other defining characteristics may draw on specific cultural, visual and historical qualities.

The key features and relationships used to distinguish HC Types or attributes used in characterisation must be clearly explained and illustrated with photographs and map extracts. These should be typical examples encompassing the defining characteristics of the HC Type and what distinguishes it from the most similar type.

In addition to these generic attributes, specific areas and places will have their own defining distinctiveness. For all but the most localised studies it will not be possible to convey these distinctions through the mapping of generic Historic Character Types, but they can still be recorded as key attributes attached to individual polygons in a GIS, and may be used to illustrate character through specific examples within the accompanying text and photographs.

As the next section indicates, this basic synthesis of key characteristics will often provide the building blocks for wider perspectives on broader Historic Character Areas (HCAs), heritage value, sensitivity and vulnerability to change.

STAGE C: ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

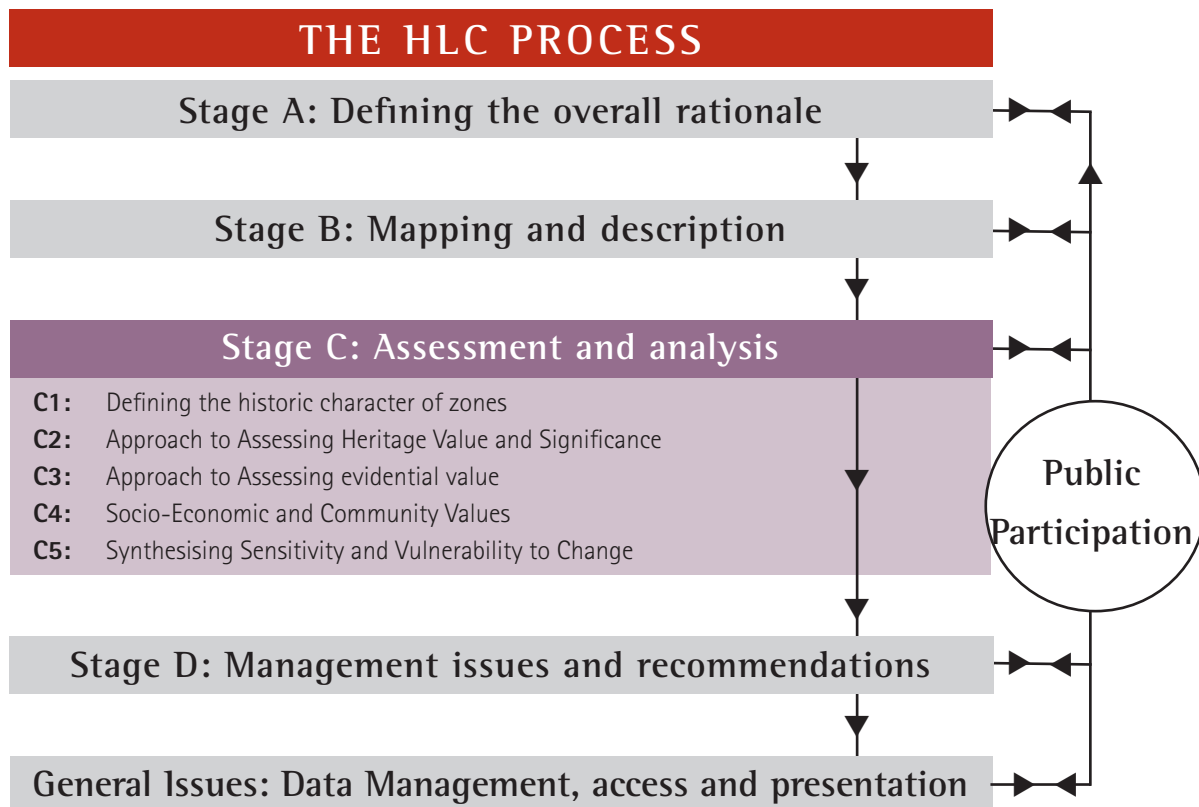


Figure 18: Stage C of the HLC process

This section concerns (a) synthesis and analysis of basic data to provide a broader picture of historic character and (b) outline approaches to assessing relative value, sensitivity and vulnerability to change. This includes:

- Defining Historic Character Areas or zones
- Assessing heritage and cultural values and significance
- Assessing historic landscape sensitivity
- Assessing vulnerability to change

Several factors need to be considered in addressing these issues. Although they could be classified to allow geographically-defined HC Types and HC Areas to be tagged with a range of values in a GIS system, an approach based on professional judgement and explanation is ultimately preferable to any elaborate scoring systems.

C1: Defining the historic character of areas or zones

Why might it be useful to define the historic character of broader areas or zones?

The difference between Historic Character Types and Historic Character Areas is as follows:

- Historic Character Types are generic recurrent combinations of characteristics that reflect a common historical origin and evolution which may occur in many places
- Historic Character Areas present a broader picture, usually based of groupings of HC Types that show how a particular area is historically distinctive from other areas

The main purpose of defining HC Areas or Zones is to present broader understandings of historic character from various perspectives.

Historic character attributes and the definitions of HCTs and other data attached to specific HCT polygons offer considerable scope for defining broader historic character in different ways. Such data might include: physical form or style of features; historical or cultural associations; extent of relict landscape; condition or sensitivity ratings.

What kind of analyses could be useful when assessing historic character at a broader level?

The kind of analysis need varies from one case to another, according to the purpose of the overall HLC project, and how far its focus is on description or management of historic character.

The most commonly useful analysis seeks to reflect deeper understanding based on historical values, such as how interrelationships between HCTs and their attributes reflect broader patterns of historic land management or how they reflect particular periods of historical change. Patterns of historic land management might, for example, be reflected in townlands of common character or different aspects of an industrial area with associated workers housing.

Other analyses more specifically oriented at management issues might seek to examine other aspects of historic character, significance, and sensitivity. For example: specific attributes of form or style; survival, condition and trajectories of change; socio-economic and community values; vulnerability to change.

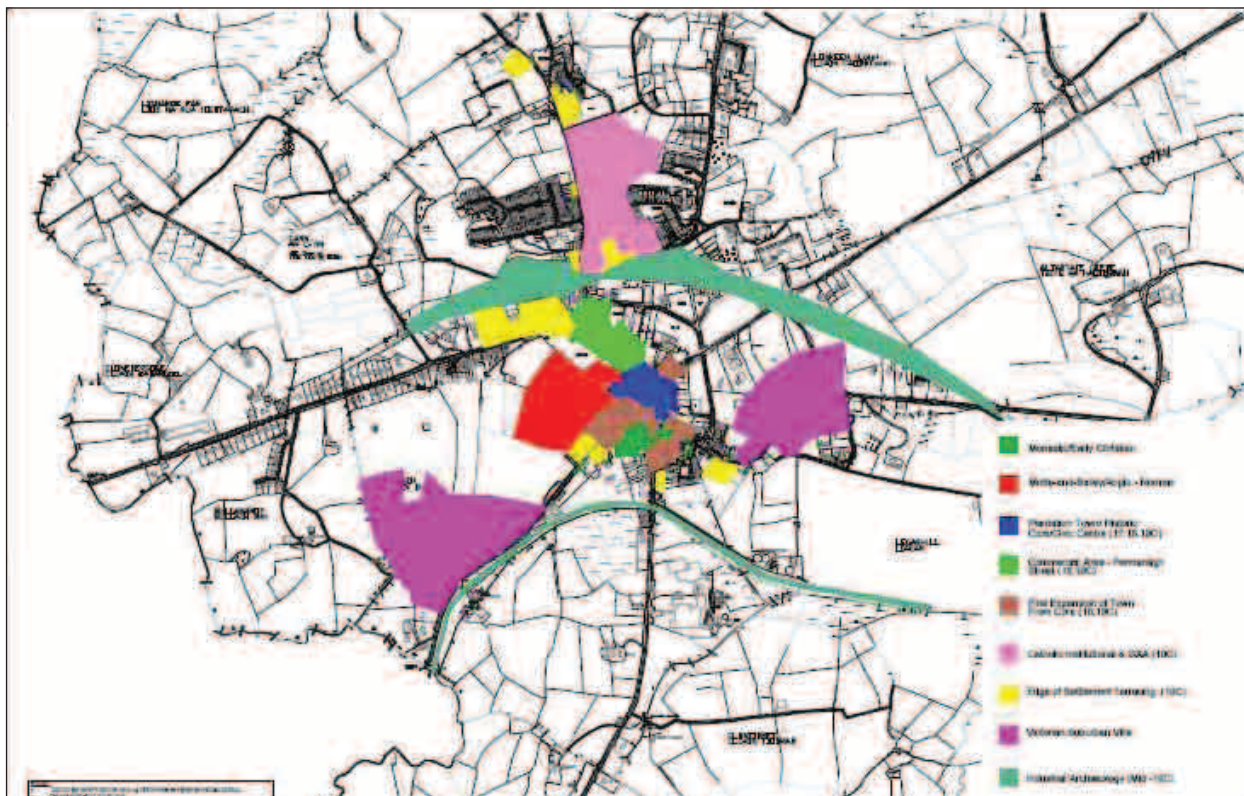


Figure 19: A study of Clones, Co Monaghan, divided the town into a series of Historic Character Areas

What options are there for how Historic Character Areas might be defined and mapped?

Much depends on the scope of the HLC project, especially how far it is intended to synthesise and analyse issues and define management challenges and options, and whether this is part of a standalone HLC project or to be integrated into other characterisation studies or design guidelines.

Where such analyses form part of a self-contained HLC project, Historic Character Areas are particularly relevant for urban areas. Equally, at a county level study, HCAs may be relevant for a historical narrative.

C2: Approach to assessing heritage value and significance

In assessing the significance of historic character two groups of values need to be considered:

1. Evidential value (including: period; survival and condition; rarity; coherence and group value; and trajectories of change)
2. Socio-economic and community value, comprising:
 - Aesthetic and cultural value (including: historical; cultural and artistic association; and design)
 - Community value (including: education; sense of place; amenity; and local distinctiveness)
 - Economic value (including: conservation-led regeneration opportunities; tourism; agricultural diversification)

The overall significance of an Historic Character Type or area can be discussed and explained in terms of what weight should be given to different factors in balancing such values. This should be based on professional judgement, drawing on both the historic landscape analysis and results of consultation (Section G3 consultation).

C3: Approach to assessing evidential value

How should period be considered as a heritage value?

Period is built into the definition of some HC Types, but this is based more on typological assumptions than direct evidence. For the purposes of assigning more specific periods, direct evidence (such as historic maps, local history, relationships to datable monuments, and architectural style) must be considered. The extent to which this is available will vary with the level of baseline research.

Summary of phases in Irish History	
I	Mesolithic 8000 - 4000 BC
II	Neolithic/Bronze Age Periods 4000 - 500 BC
III	Iron Age Period 500 BC - 500 AD
IV	Early Medieval Period 500 - 1150 AD
V	Medieval and Early Post - medieval Period 1150 - 1800 AD
VI	Late Post - medieval and Modern Periods 1800 AD to present

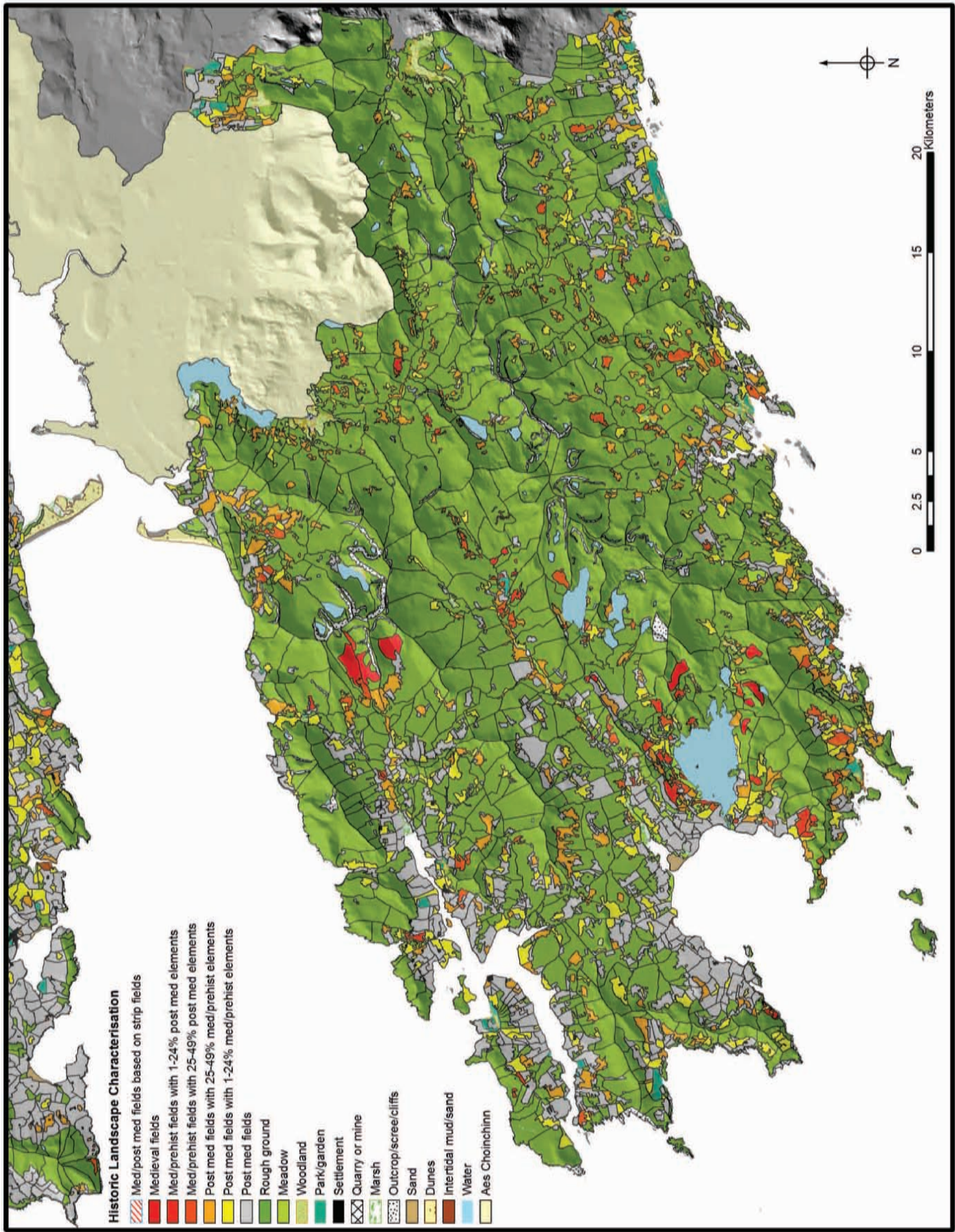


Figure 20: HLC of Corcu Duibne, Co Kerry. The relatively large areas with high visibility of medieval fields around Lough Currane and in the Caherlehillan and adjoining valleys are the result of field systems survey (Making Christian Landscapes INSTAR Project, Archaeology Department, University College Cork).

Period values can be assessed in various ways, all of which involve some degree of professional judgement:

- Proportion of Historic Character Types attributable to broad periods (see Appendix B)
- Grouping HC Types to identify areas of survival from a predominant period
- Commentaries on the historical character and development of the area that reflect the periods that have contributed most to that character
- Noting survivals from older periods, which are often significant as extra evidential value for poorly documented periods
- Highlighting HC Types that are resonant of a particularly important aspect of Irish history (for example, land reorganisation after the Famine)

How should rarity be considered as a heritage value?

To some extent, rarity is an aspect of all the other values, but is also relevant to functional historic landuse attributes. The broad functional themes that provide the framework for defining historic character are chosen for their universal value and so their relative land cover and frequency is more to do with their intrinsic nature rather than any particular heritage value. Nonetheless, the rarity of especially historically significant attributes or sub-types can be judged by the overall occurrence of the attribute, or the area or number of polygons attributable to the type.

More generally, the relative rarity of the more specific historic character types within the overall historic landuse groupings provides an important basis for judging their heritage value. This can be judged or measured in terms of

- The relative rarity of sub-types (Appendix B levels) within general groupings (by overall area or number of polygons)
- The relative rarity of sub-types (Appendix B levels with specific period attributes (by overall area or number of polygons)

How should coherence and group value be considered?

Some areas display a significant level of coherence and group value in their historic landscape characteristics.

- Group value is very important in assessing the overall historic interest of landscape above the level of different functional HCTs
- This is often evident from recurrent juxtapositions of HCTs and can be seen in the range of HCTs that characterise individual townlands and how far these survive
- Coherence is especially evident where pressures of improvement have been limited and trajectories of change have been slow, leaving a relatively coherent level of survival from a particular period and ensuring that historical relationships between different landuse resources are still legible in the landscape
- This may be especially evident where specific periods of historical change have left an especially strong imprint, for example: different elements of a large demesne estate; the effects of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Land Commission reassignment of land
- The overall development of the landscape through time may be especially apparent from the good survival of relict landscapes and coherent areas of later change of different periods

Coherence and group value can be especially important where the character of a particular period, or a good general level of survival, stretches over large areas, potentially embracing many different character types.

At the assessment stage, the coherence and group value of historic character over a wider area can be recorded as an attribute of groups of HCT polygons, or by describing the area over which this is evident. It may also be taken further to help define broader Historic Character Areas.

One of the ways of looking at this issue is to consider how historic character relates to definable estates or townlands that may reflect recurrent historic patterns of resource exploitation reflecting a number of landuses (see section A4).

How should survival be considered?

Survival reflects three broad 'states' of survival

1. Non-visible and buried archaeological potential which no longer contributes visually to landscape character, but may nevertheless inform its understanding.
2. Relict features and structures, such as archaeological sites and monuments which contribute to landscape character as visible historic features that no longer have any extant use.
3. Extant features such as field systems or vernacular buildings, which contribute to historic landscape character in terms of their ongoing use or reuse, reflecting the evolution of human interaction with the environment.

In assessing rates of survival within these broad categories, a combination of attributes needs to be considered, including, for example:

- It is the combination of archaeological potential, relict landscape character and extant character that gives the best sense of overall time depth and evidence of landscape change (see above).
- Survival of particular features (for example, a designed landscape)
- Survival of key morphological characteristics (boundaries in field patterns, urban plot shapes)
- Survival of design values (architectural styles and materials, designed vistas)
- Overall integrity and coherence (the legibility of historical relationships between areas of different character in terms of visible features)

How should condition be considered as a heritage value?

While survival reflects the visible presence of different landscape characteristics from the past, condition concerns what might be termed the strength and legibility of the presence. Factors that need to be taken into account include:

- The extent and prominence of relict landscape features and the impact of improvement or clearance
- The physical condition of extant landscape features (walls, hedges, designed landscape features, built environment street furniture)

How can trajectories of change be considered?

The coherence, survival and condition of historic landscape characteristics – as whole HCTs or their component elements – can be seen from a dynamic perspective as reflecting processes of change. For example, HCTs that have seen a good deal of boundary loss or alterations of key attributes may be at the brink of becoming another 'Type'. Some HCTs (including many field patterns and areas of settlement) can be of very mixed origins. In these cases, piecemeal alteration is part of the essence of their character.

Judgements about trajectories of change can usefully take account of:

- Recurrent patterns of visible landuse change (juxtaposition of abandoned and new buildings; intensive and non-intensive land management; abandonment or regeneration of urban areas)
- Trajectory of change from map regression or time slices
- Trajectory of change from formal data (census, planning and agriculture statistics)

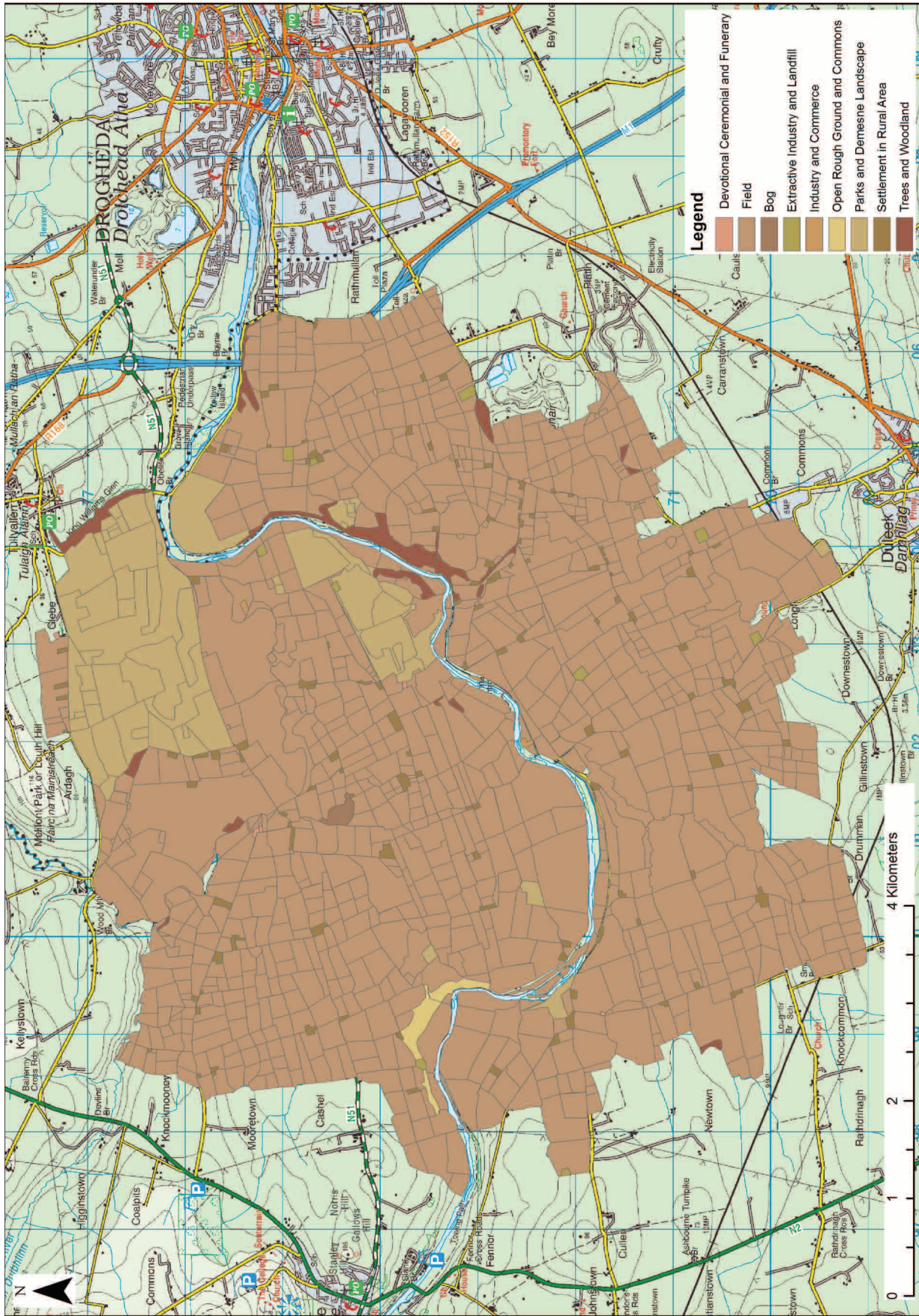


Figure 21: 'Time slice' mapping of the Brú na Boinne World Heritage site in Co Meath showing broad historical (mid-19th century) land use or characters. In comparison to Figure 12a large estates and demesnes are more visible in this period and the landscape has considerably less settlement (Will Magherry and Meath County Council)



Figure 22: The impact of stone clearance over time can be seen in these successive photographs of Glenfahan, Co Kerry by (a) St Joseph (Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs, 1964), (b) Gillian Barrett (1990), (c) Markus Casey (c. 2000). The impact of modern clearance and land improvement on historic field patterns is clearly apparent.

There are no fixed terminologies for characterising areas according to their trajectory of change, but distinctions could be made in terms of what extant patterns represent, such as:

- Reversion to wilder states (extensification, abandonment or neglect)
- Minimal change (continuity or high survival over long periods)
- Static (old) imposed change (designed landscapes, systematically reorganised fields, planned settlements)
- Dynamic (recent) imposed change (recurrent past re-planning; recent major changes from rural to urban use or intensification of uses)
- Organic slow change (small incremental changes slowly accumulating over centuries)
- Organic fast change (small incremental changes accumulating over decades)
- Mixed imposed and organic change

These may vary according to whether the area in question is urban or rural etc. Assigning HCTs to these attributes, together with the extent and condition of relict landscape character, may help to indicate historic character in a more dynamic way than a rigid (and somewhat artificial) typology.

Understanding the trajectory of change is important because it provides some additional insight into character and what sort of future change may suit different areas.

C4: Socio-economic and community values

How should historical and cultural associations be considered as a heritage value?

Where significant historical and cultural associations are identified (see above) they add value to the area(s) concerned. Their importance is not uniform but can be judged on the basis of various indicators:

- Whether the associations are nationally, regionally or locally recognised
- The extent to which such values are overtly used to encourage tourism to the area
- The longevity, frequency, and popularity of any events, pilgrimages, or other means of commemorating or celebrating the association



Figure 23: Interpretative and directional signage at Rindoon deserted medieval settlement in Co Roscommon illustrating how heritage can contribute to tourism and amenity projects

How should community values be taken into account?

Consultation with local residents' groups and others will often reveal local traditions of value, or personal and community associations. These may collectively help describe a community's sense of place and add perspective on the character of certain areas that people particularly value – or dislike (See G3).

The consultation process must gather and record such impressions so that they can be synthesised and, if appropriate, recorded as attributes of particular geographically defined areas.

In addition, the study may reveal aspects of the historic development of the landscape that indicate significant potential for education or voluntary involvement in local management initiatives.

Communities may also express particular concerns about pressures of change affecting particular areas. This can be taken forward into the impact assessment and management stage of the project.

What economic values should be applied to historic character?

Changes in employment patterns, population mix and commercial uses can all affect the value of an area. Both positive and negative aspects must be considered.

To a significant extent, relative economic values are implicit in the HCTypes, but they are also reflected in their condition. This may include urban areas and former industrial sites that are becoming rundown and ripe for regeneration; areas of farmland reverting to scrub, or subject to intensification, boundary removal and stone clearance.

Tourism represents a special economic value to which Historic Landscape Character contributes, sometimes very overtly, where key heritage attractions are set within especially valued or important landscape surroundings (Glendalough, Brú na Bóinne, Tara, Rathcroghan, Dysert O'Dea). But Historic Landscape Character is also part of visitors' intuitive appreciation of the places that they visit, and may contribute to its value for tourism in a much more subtle way.

The economics of farming, tourism and redevelopment are specialist fields in their own right. Unless expertise is available, assessment should normally be limited to general commentary on the economic context of an area's historic character from a non-specialist perspective.

How can heritage values be used to indicate which parts of a study area may be of more significance than others?

Separate values can be described and/or combined in different ways to display heritage value geographically. One option is to attach comments, or categories of value, as an attribute of particular HC Types or individual polygons. These can then be retrieved and analysed to indicate the geographical distribution of different values and how they overlap. Examples of such analyses might include:

- The number, area and distribution of different rarity attributes within the study area
- Commentary on unusual or special survival by: period; combination of features and HC Types; exceptional survival; historical association area
- The geographic spread of specific survival coherence or associative attributes, by overall area or number of polygons
- A preliminary mapping of trajectories of change, based on map regression and HCT attribute data

C5: Synthesising sensitivity and vulnerability to change

It is a matter for individual studies whether this type of analysis is attempted. Similarly, whether to distinguish relative sensitivity and vulnerability over the whole study area, or just select parts of it subject to particular assessment of development or other landuse implications, is an individual matter. A danger of drawing too narrow a perspective is that these issues will not be put into sufficient focus.

How do heritage values, considerations of physical survival and patterns of long term change indicate the overall sensitivity of historic character?

Landscape change is much more piecemeal than broad categorisation of HCTs would suggest, and gradual modifications will eventually turn one 'Type' into another. The completeness and integrity of historic character is often better in some areas than others, depending on both survival and condition. This reflects different trajectories of change that have helped to shape what is valued in terms of the present day historic character of places and their significance.

- Particularly sensitive areas are likely to exist where historic character is rare, distinctive, well-preserved, or historically important, or where it displays, time-depth, or strong associative values
- Many areas will not be unusual, will have been altered by long-term piecemeal change of no special historic importance and may lack other cultural or aesthetic associations, but yet retain some local distinctiveness and strong community sense of place
- Areas that have been subject to large scale and rapid recent change may have lost much of their historic character and be relatively less sensitive to further change. Conversely, such areas may equally be more sensitive to additional change.

Assessing historic landscape sensitivity thus needs to avoid equating this with 'importance' but should take account of both heritage and socio-economic values and completeness and integrity of character in presenting an overall view.

How does vulnerability to change differ from historic landscape sensitivity and how should vulnerability be assessed?

While judgements of sensitivity are based on an assessment of the value, survival and condition of places' Historic Landscape Character, vulnerability to change looks more specifically at how particular aspects of historic character may be more or less robust in the face of different kinds of ongoing change or specific proposals (development plan zonings, for example).

There is no set method for assessing vulnerability to change but, in most cases, it is helpful to start from a consideration of the types of ongoing change and pressures that might affect historic character. This should include potentially beneficial trends and opportunities to conserve or enhance character, or promote the social and economic value of the historic environment. Three main strands of evidence need to be examined:

- Ongoing trajectories of change including agricultural improvement, clearance and development outside zoned areas
- Strategic planning (including national and regional infrastructure, development plan zoning and search areas)
- Conservation, agri-environment support, conservation-led regeneration

In each case, an assessment needs to be made of how these trends and proposals are likely to impinge on the key historic features and relationships that underpin the historic character of the areas affected. This must be based on a clear appraisal of how robust or fragile such features and relationships are to the types of change anticipated.

Understanding historic landscape sensitivity and its vulnerability to change is an important precursor to developing any detailed impact assessment and development of management proposals. As with other analytical stages of the HLC process, this may either be done as a self-contained exercise or integrated into general landscape characterisation, conservation planning or environmental assessment.

Assessing vulnerability to change

While historic landscape sensitivity is, in some senses, an assessment of what could be lost (or has already been degraded) from a relatively abstract perspective, an assessment of vulnerability to change needs to set this within the context of pressures, processes and trends in how historic character has been changing and is likely to change. The complexity and diversity of how character may change will tend to add to sensitivity.

STAGE D: MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

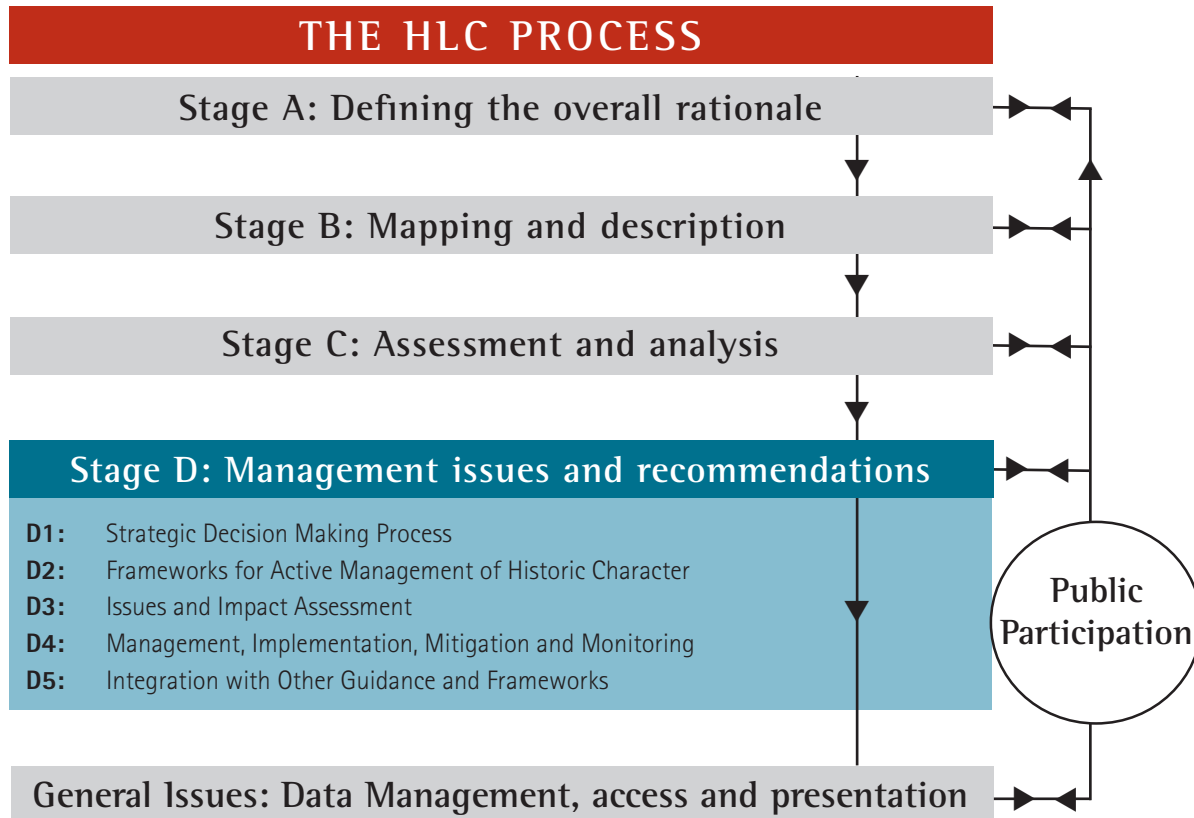


Figure 24: Stage D of the HLC process

Many processes and frameworks already exist for making decisions that affect future management of the historic environment, often in conjunction with other management needs, which are relevant to historic landscape, townscape or seascape character. They include: County Development Plans, and Strategic Environmental Assessments; Environmental Impact Assessments; County Heritage Plans; Landscape Character Assessments; Village Design Statements (VDS); agri-environment programmes; forestry planning; and Integrated Coastal Zone Management planning.

D1: Strategic decision making process

How can historic characterisation be used to assist and influence strategic development plans?

Development plans are drawn up as strategic documents, including a series of policies, which will include some for the historic environment and landscape. They may be national, regional, county or local. Development plans use various methods to define where different types of development should be located or not. These include:

- Broad policy principles of where different types of development may be located (e.g. one-off rural development, the exploitation of minerals, or use of brownfield land)
- Preferred areas of least constraint (e.g. for windfarms)
- 'Zoning' of specific areas of land for particular pre-defined classes of development

The issues that arise for the historic character of areas affected may thus either be very generic or quite site-specific. All development plans are subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. This requires identification of significant

effects on the architectural and archaeological heritage and landscape likely to arise from the kinds of developments proposed, and the interaction of these and other environmental effects. SEA should be an iterative part of development planning. HLC has an important part to play in shaping such policies with regard to locational guidance and zoning, as well as assessing their effect and what mitigation and monitoring will be needed, including promoting benefits.

Assessments of impacts and recommendations for management or mitigation need to be geared to the relevant tier(s) of decision-making and the legislative requirements. For example, where development plans zone areas for particular types of development, the SEAs should consider what actual changes to the historic character of the area are likely to arise, at least in broad terms.

Heritage plans and strategies and Integrated Coastal Management Plans offer another vehicle through which the issues identified by an HLC can be highlighted and earmarked for action.

Agri-environment schemes and forestry

A significant proportion of farmland in Ireland is included within the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS), the national agri-environment scheme, which closed to new agreements in 2009 and in the successor Agri-environmental Options Scheme (AEOS). The REPs scheme had a set of objectives and conditions which applied generally, including:

- Protect any features of historical or archaeological interest
- Maintain and improve the visual appearance of the farm and farmyard

while AEOS' objectives are to promote biodiversity, to combat climate change, to encourage water management/quality and to contribute to positive environmental management of farmed Natura 2000 sites (i.e. sites designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives).

Whatever form of agri-environment scheme is employed in the future under the Common Agricultural Policy, including schemes to promote High Nature Value Farming (HNVF) (Smith et al., 2010), more specific requirements relating to HLC could form part of a scheme's objectives and any future individual agreements for particular land holdings. Similarly the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine operates a range of forestry schemes. Although not mentioned in documents relating to forestry schemes, HLC should play a part in the drawing up of proposed areas for planting.

D2: Frameworks for active management of historic character

Development management and planning conditions

The majority of development is managed through the development management process at county or sub-county level. Most major developments require a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), but the majority of these will be dealt with according to existing policies and supplementary guidance. These provide a robust framework for consistent decision-making, including attaching conditions to planning consents.

Rather than merely refusing unacceptable proposals, the planning system can be used to influence the nature of development. It can influence detailed location and layout, and ensure appropriate and good design for the locality. Planning conditions may include requirements to preserve particular features of historic interest, restrict building heights, or to define specifications on acceptable materials.

Whatever the scale of the project, care must be taken to strike a balance between recommendations that are too generic and ones that are too prescriptive, or that may carry unreasonable obligations with respect to time and money.

If suitable policies are in place, development management provides an important practical basis for managing impacts on historic character, but this can be greatly enhanced by supporting guidance of various forms. These include HLC studies themselves, and also how HLC is used to inform other guidance including:

- Landscape Character Assessments
- Master plans
- Village Design Statements
- Architectural Conservation Area statements and appraisals
- Conservation and management plans
- Agri-environment objectives guidance

These frameworks often provide the basis for developing more detailed policies and guidance for smaller land parcels. An HLC project for such smaller areas may be useful to inform development of policy at this level, providing more detail than would be feasible at county level.

How can historic characterisation be used to assist and influence pro-active land management?

A crucial aspect of managing the historic character of places is to understand the complexity of the place as well as the importance of the cumulative effect of many small changes. It is to address these individually minor, but collectively significant, changes that detailed design guidelines, and area or site specific management plans, are often needed. Such plans can include master plans, Village Design Statements, Architectural Conservation Area appraisals and conservation plans.

Design guidelines are an especially flexible form of guidance as they may be drawn up for particular areas or places at almost any scale, or for particular types of development (forestry, housing, windfarms, quarrying, etc).

Likewise, specific grant-aided agri-environment objectives need to be clearly defined to include the conservation of historic character. Boundary loss, stone clearance and other improvements have cumulatively led to massive changes in the character of rural Ireland. Innumerable incremental changes have taken place with very little consideration of whether this is to be regretted, or celebrated as part of a centuries-old and continuing process of change.

D3: Issues and impact assessment

Development can profoundly change local historic landscape character and HLC can be a valuable tool in assessing and managing impacts. Change also happens more insidiously through agricultural improvement.

How should strategic issues be identified and addressed?

At a generic level, particular kinds of development or landuse change will incur broadly consistent types of impact, and some of the key categories are discussed below.

Thinking about issues in these terms may encourage HLC practitioners and, importantly, consultees to identify what they consider to be the main pressures for change.

The analysis of sensitivity and vulnerability to change is likely to be very important in identifying issues (see C4 above), but so too is consultation, both with planners and other land managers, and community representatives who will offer their own perspective.

It is important that these analyses are not intrinsically judgmental: identification of issues should seek to include those that promote conservation of character as well as those that induce change. Whether they are perceived as desirable, undesirable, or just an ongoing trend are matters on which opinions may legitimately differ.

How is the historic character of the landscape most likely to be affected by development and other landuse change?

The main ways that historic character may be altered by development or other landuse change include:

- Wholesale change of historic character from redevelopment or large scale landuse change
- Alterations affecting physical integrity of historic character – especially physical loss or addition of features and changes in condition or detailed stylistic appearance
- Alterations affecting coherence of historic relationships – especially physical severance or 'islanding' of related features, areas or historical land management units
- Changes in general visual appearance and the legibility of historic character
- Alteration of perceptual values and historic associations because of physical changes or intrusions in the landscape
- Alterations to landscape views and vistas and important visual relationships in the landscape

Any or all the above may act in combination to alterations to the landscape setting of historic features and places, and this will often be a crucial consideration.



Figure 25: The cumulative impact of modern development

How should impacts and effects be assessed at different scales and in different contexts?

As indicated above, distinctions can be made in how far proposed development and landuse changes are defined by location:

- Change proposed at a general policy level with only generic locational guidance or criteria
- Defined general areas of suitability or least constraint for particular types of development or landuse
- Area-specific zoning for pre-defined broad classes of development or landuse
- Site- and project-specific proposals

For each of these, a different level of assessment must be considered. In the context of formal environmental assessments, there are no absolute distinctions of scale as between SEAs and EIAs.

While EIAs only apply to site-specific and project-specific developments they may cumulatively have to deal with larger areas and may involve major infrastructure projects crossing very large areas. Master plans that set out proposals for the development of large areas at an outline level may be covered either by EIA (as an overall development project) or by SEA (as a development programme).

Although the procedures of EIA impact analysis are not formally required for many other kinds of landuse change, the principles are valid for any application where the significance of change needs to be judged.

Assessing effects at a general policy level.

Identification of the ways in which development or other landuse change is likely to affect historic character is possible only in generic terms, but this can nevertheless be valuable for highlighting issues to be addressed in more detail through supplementary guidance, development management or detailed management strategies.

At this level, likely impacts need to be defined in very general terms, but may nonetheless be fairly clear in indicating

- The ways in which different types of development are likely to affect historic character
- The areas where developments of different kinds are most likely to occur
- The principal historic characteristics of those areas and whether any areas of particular sensitivity are likely to be affected, and if so, how vulnerable they are
- Whether any of these effects is likely to be of major significance given the broad scale and character of the range of development proposed and the historic sensitivity of the location
- While a descriptive appraisal of impact is likely to be straightforward, it is unlikely to be possible to give any quantitative indication of the scale of impact, though it may well be relevant to indicate the sensitivity of any historic characteristics likely to be affected

Assessing effects for areas identified as having least constraint for particular types of initiative.

Although impact assessment is still likely to be very generic, the types and location of proposals are likely to be better defined allowing a clearer assessment. While impacts cannot be quantified, it may be possible to indicate quantitatively what proportion of the area is assigned to different Historic Character Types, how sensitive they are, and how vulnerable to the type of development envisaged.

It will often be appropriate to indicate where areas of greatest vulnerability lie.

Assessing effects for area-specific zoning of development and landuse

The historic character of zoned areas can be defined accurately and, since zoning is for specific classes of development or landuse, their likely effects can be defined generically with some confidence.

While the precise impacts of projects to implement the zoning cannot be defined in terms of specific features and characteristics, it should be possible to identify all the main issues likely to arise for individual developments.

The zoning may well have a profound affect on existing historic character, especially if it relates to a change from agricultural or open land to built development. Where previously developed land is concerned the changes may be much less substantial and in some cases the effects on historic character might be relatively subtle.

Because the areas and types of development are much more specific, it becomes possible to assess the general impact of zoning in quantitative as well as qualitative terms – for example: the proportion of particular HLC units or townlands affected; or the nature of historic relationships affected.

Likewise, it may be appropriate to highlight opportunities to enhance historic character, and social and economic values of heritage, through conservation-led regeneration, indicating how key features and relationships that underpin historic character can be retained and conserved.

Assessing effects of site- and project-specific proposals

Where development or other changes are project-specific, both the character of the area affected and the full range of impacts likely to arise should be definable, though indirect effects may still be very difficult to predict with certainty.

Again, both quantitative and qualitative assessment of the scale and significance of effects is possible.

Has potential for environmental, social and economic benefit been identified?

Not all the potential impacts on the historic landscape will be negative. Conservation, restoration and sympathetic incorporation of change may produce a positive benefit for an area. Among the benefits which should be considered are:

- Quality of life – sense of identity and place preserved, maintenance of high quality surroundings
- Habitat preservation – dunes, bogs, wetlands, etc
- Informed planning – more sympathetic design
- Transferability – expertise developed in one area applied elsewhere, improving cost effectiveness
- Knowledge, education and understanding – improved and available for use in other projects
- Tourism – stimulus to local businesses and social enterprises

The historic landscape is constantly evolving and, apart from the impacts of development, is subject to the influence of agencies outside human control, like coastal erosion.

How can 'synergistic' and 'indirect' effects be defined?

It is useful to distinguish synergistic effects or impact interactions where, for example, effects on character arise from the interplay of different impacts, from indirect effects which arise from complex pathways of cause and effect.

Synergistic effects occur when several different impacts combine to alter the landscape setting of a historically important place. While the 'setting' of a particular heritage asset or place is a different concept from the wider historic character of the area, the two are closely linked. HLC can make an important contribution to assessing the effects of development on the setting of heritage features or whole settlements.

Indirect effects occur when developments trigger changes in landuse. This especially arises when impacts change the viability of rural landholdings, or sever previously coherent areas of character. Major indirect benefits for historic character can arise from road schemes that bring substantial traffic relief to over-congested historic towns.

How should cumulative effects be assessed?

Historic landscape character is the result of the cumulative effects of centuries of change. New development or other landuse change will, in some respects, continue that process. The issues at stake are often, not whether there are cumulative effects, but in what direction and at what speed the change will travel. This assessment will often draw usefully on evidence of trajectories of change and vulnerability of historic character highlighted in section C above.

In other respects, cumulative effects need to be assessed in terms of how, for example, different development plan zonings add up to an overall change in historic character and whether this gives rise to particularly sensitive effects. A particular development might, for example, threaten the last remaining area where the historic relationship between an historic settlement and its rural surroundings survives.



Figure 26: The medieval town of Fethard, Co Tipperary retains its rural surroundings

Approaches to assessing scale and significance of impacts on Historic Landscape Character

In assessing the scale and significance of impacts on Historic Landscape Character, three broad factors must be considered:

1. The relative values, sensitivity and vulnerability of the Historic Landscape Characteristics affected.
2. The nature of the impacts (qualitative effect) judged in terms of how far key historic characteristics will be lost or affected.
3. The physical scale of impact (for example: the area or proportion of an HL unit or townland affected; the length of different HCTs traversed by linear infrastructure; the number or proportion of historic urban plots affected).

The significance of effects depends on balancing the scale of impact and sensitivity of the affected character, which is a matter of professional judgement, with reference to the factors discussed in Section C above.

Artificial scoring methods that seek to make these judgements seem more objective should be avoided, but various criteria may be useful in seeking consistency. For example:

- The scale of impact can be considered in terms of whether it would (a) be sufficient to alter the assignment of the area to a particular Historic Character Type or (b) require redrawing boundaries between HCTs
- If HC Types are altered, how profound is this (would it change basic high level classification (Appendix B) – from fields to urban – or would the change occur at a lower level)?
- Other considerations may include whether the basic legibility of historic character will be altered substantially or only peripherally

D4: Management, implementation, mitigation and monitoring

As with impact assessment, proposals for implementation of actions to conserve or restore historic character, or to prevent, avoid or mitigate adverse effects need to be considered according to how clearly the needs can be defined geographically. However, typical implementation or mitigation proposals will include:

- Adoption of specific plan policies to safeguard historic character or areas of historic sensitivity or vulnerability
- Input of HLC into other strategic documents (landscape or other appraisals; site specific assessments, Village Design Statements, Architectural Conservation Area Appraisals, Conservation Plans, master plans, guidelines)
- Use of HLC-based criteria to define areas of greater or lesser constraint in respect of the likely types of effect
- Use of HLC-based criteria in other multi-disciplinary studies to define such areas and ensure that proposals avoid historically sensitive and vulnerable landscape
- Proposed alterations to existing zoning where they are likely to have significant adverse effects on historically sensitive or vulnerable areas
- Proposed plan policies for specific zonings, if appropriate, to safeguard historic character
- Generic consideration of how the identified likely effects on specific historic characteristics can be avoided or reduced
- Input into any design guidelines of the areas or type of change concerned
- Detailed proposals of how the layout, design and appearance will avoid and reduce effects, and respect or enhance historic character

What approaches to monitoring historic character already exist?

Whatever the source of the impacts, recommendations should be made for some form of monitoring of effects on historic landscape character.

The responsibility for monitoring needs to be identified and clearly indicated.

Monitoring is already an established part of some aspects of planning and landuse management and heritage conservation.

1. Approaches to monitoring are discussed in Heritage Appraisal of Development Plans (Heritage Council 2000), although the measures for landscape do not make specific reference to historic landscape.
2. Monitoring is an obligatory requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, and the location of incremental changes to the historic landscape arising from development can be tracked through the planning process, including any general audits to check adherence to conditions implementing design guidelines that have incorporated historic character provisions.

In both cases, the absence of specific guidance on HLC means that there is also no specific consideration as to how change might be monitored, or how far policies are implemented.



Figure 27: Damage identified to this earthwork at Rathcroghan, Co Roscommon

What are the main provisions that need to be established for effective monitoring?

A number of standard requirements for monitoring apply to Historic Characterisation as much as to other environmental values. Specific schemes of monitoring are likely to need, and should focus on, identified pressures for change and impacts. The standard requirements for monitoring are:

- Clear linkages to identified pressures for change and impacts considered significant
- Focus on key attributes and physical features that are important for Historic Character
- Compatibility with strategic planning, landscape or heritage frameworks
- Sensitivity to the specific pressures of different types of development or other landuse change
- Ability to monitor positive change, not just loss or damage
- Ability to monitor indirect and cumulative effects
- Use of robust, replicable measures
- Cost effectiveness
- Resonance with public and community values

The details of how these broad principles should apply will vary from one case to another, depending on their scope and purpose. For example:

- For some impacts, periodic observations of change and appropriate mitigation strategies would be appropriate
- Where conditions have been placed on development or guidance issued on appropriate design, there must be some mechanism for ensuring that these have been met
- Attention needs to be given to cumulative effects (for example, a small development within an urban centre or a few isolated houses in rural locations may not have a significant impact, but where several changes take place there must be some check that the combined result does not alter the historic character)
- Strategies for identifying thresholds of significant change may need to be devised, but care should be exercised in avoiding over mechanistic use of indicators such as percentage loss of field boundaries or number of buildings demolished

The most constructive approaches to monitoring will be based on examining how far changes have been influenced by, and followed guidance on, historic character. At a very broad level, it should become possible to examine change by looking at how and why the character of sensitive areas has been altered over a development plan period or over a fixed period (e.g. 5 or 10 years).

Another important reason for establishing effective monitoring provisions in relation to Historic Landscape Characterisation is to allow its value and effectiveness to be assessed, and improvements made in future.

D5: Integration with other guidance and frameworks

What areas of guidance are relevant?

- National Landscape Guidance (DoE, 2000) and Landscape Character Assessments; heritage plans and strategies; Integrated Coastal Management Zone plans
- SEA and EIA guidance and documents such as Heritage Appraisal of Development Plans (Heritage Council 2000)

- Village Design Statements (Heritage Council 2012); ACA statements and appraisals; conservation and management plans
- Design guidelines for particular places or types of development

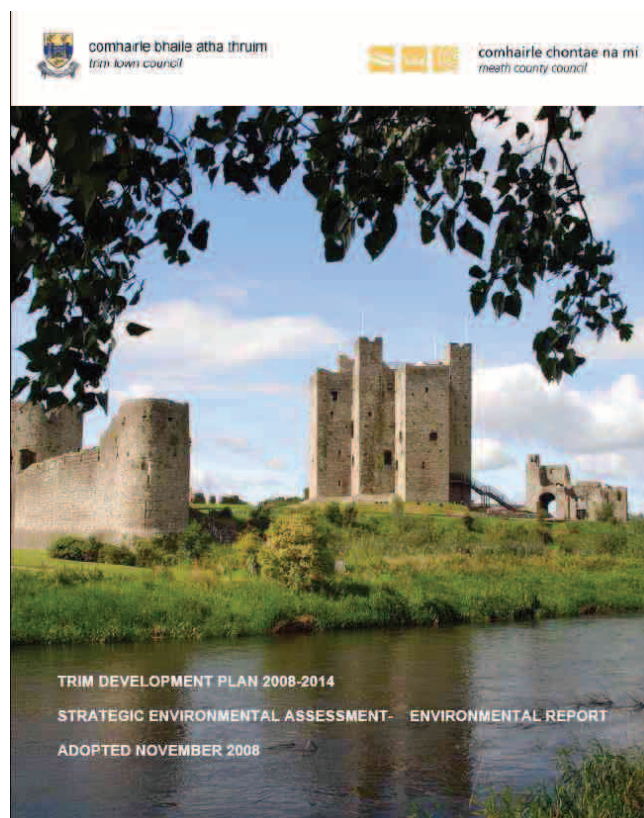


Figure 28: Trim SEA cover

In general these guidance documents and the standard formats adopted for these management frameworks do not include specific reference to HLC. But HLC guidance can add an important extra dimension to all these strategic frameworks.

The public consultation aspects of the processes used to draft Landscape Character Assessments, heritage plans/strategies and Village Design Statements offer useful models for developing public participation in HLC studies at both county and local levels.

How does historic character guidance fit in with Landscape Character Assessment?

The draft guidelines for landscape assessment (DoEHLG 2000) outlines three stages into which the guidance above (Stages B and C) can be integrated:

- Character
- Value
- Sensitivity

In the character stage, areas are delineated according to visual distinctiveness

These are then ascribed a value to which several factors contribute, several of which have a historic component:

- Aesthetic – visual, vistas, scenic areas, outstanding landscapes, areas of special amenity
- Ecological – habitats, biotopes, wildlife sanctuary, Special Areas of Conservation, Natural Heritage Areas and Special Protection Areas
- Historical – archaeological heritage, artefacts, field patterns
- Socio-cultural – buildings, settlements, monuments, social history or social geography
- Religious – shrines, wells, burial places, pilgrimages
- Mythological – ancient stories and folklore

The third stage of assessing sensitivity looks at the ability of an area to absorb change without unacceptable impacts on character and value.

Unfortunately the methodology suggested, which contains both desk studies and fieldwork, makes no mention of site visits or of any historic sources (such as historic maps), other than existing designations and possibly inventories of monuments and structures.

More generally it should be noted that the 'draft' guidance has still not been updated and finalised, and methodological approaches to LCA in Ireland are still a matter of debate and development (Martin et al. 2006).

How does historic character assessment fit with other guidance?

There are numerous guidance documents that relate to frameworks for managing the impact of development and other landuse change. HLC does not receive specific coverage, although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance for Environmental Impact Statements (EPA 2002) has set out what needs to be covered for different environmental topics, including:

- The landscape (landscape character, landscape context, views and prospects, historical landscapes, manmade landscapes)
- Material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage (folklore/tradition/history, architecture/settlements, monuments/features, designed landscape, natural resources of economic value)
- The inter-relationship between the above

The EPA Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (2003) also makes no specific reference to HLC, but refers to 'erosion of long established landuse patterns' as a type of impact.

In other guidance documents, the emphasis is on visual intrusion into the landscape and the impact on designated monuments and features, with landscape only featuring in terms of screening and restoration for minerals extraction.

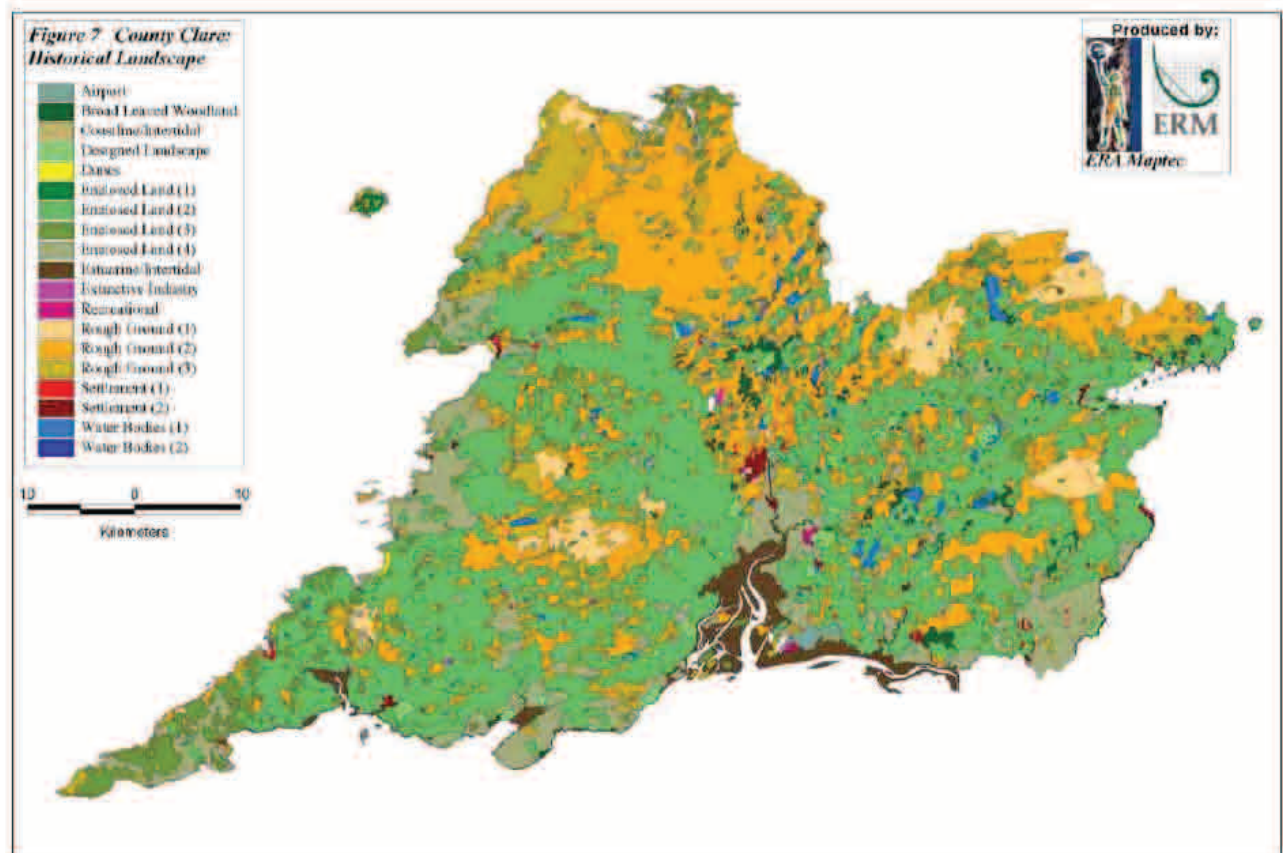
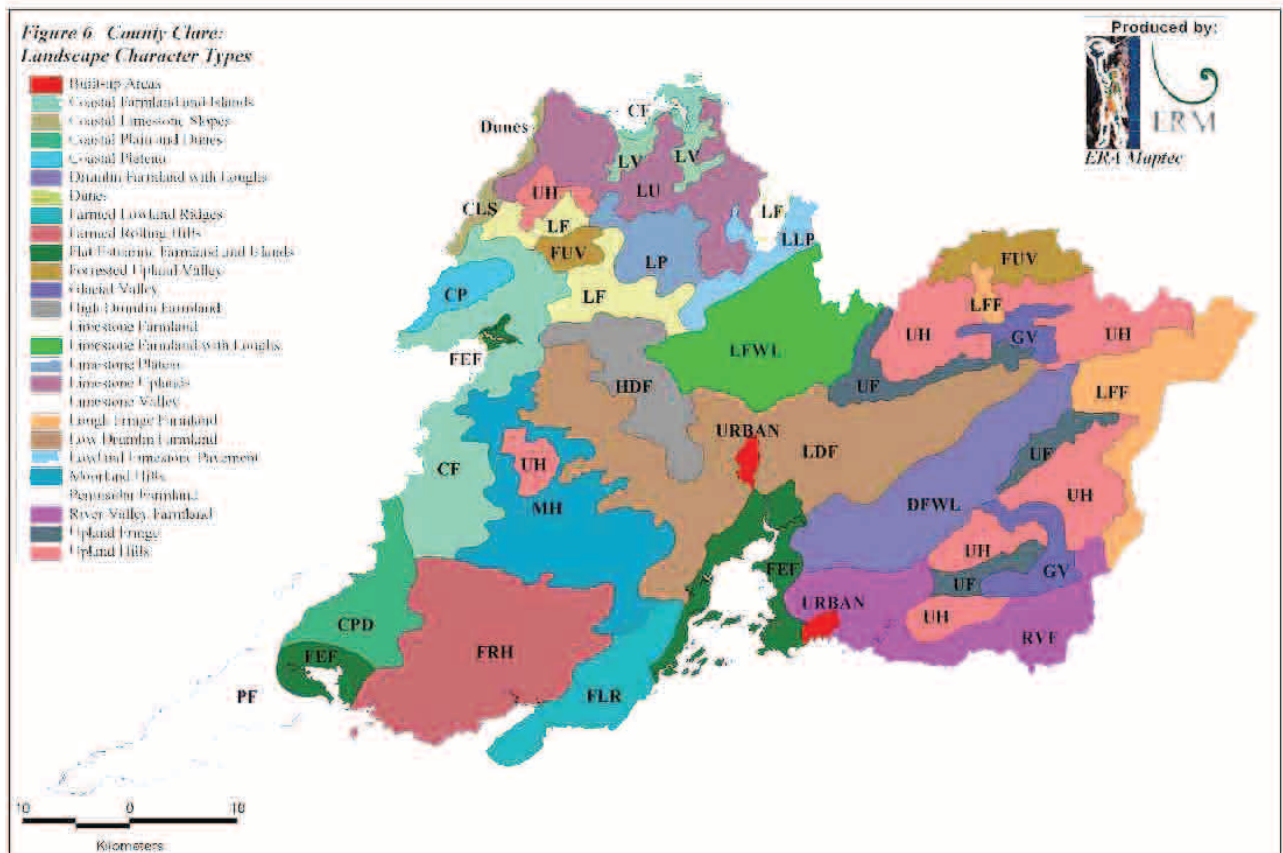


Figure 29: In 2000 the Heritage Council, in partnership with Clare County Council, commissioned a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) which included a HLC with (a) resulting Landscape Character Types and (b) Historic Character Types

GENERAL ISSUE G: DATA MANAGEMENT, ACCESS AND PRESENTATION

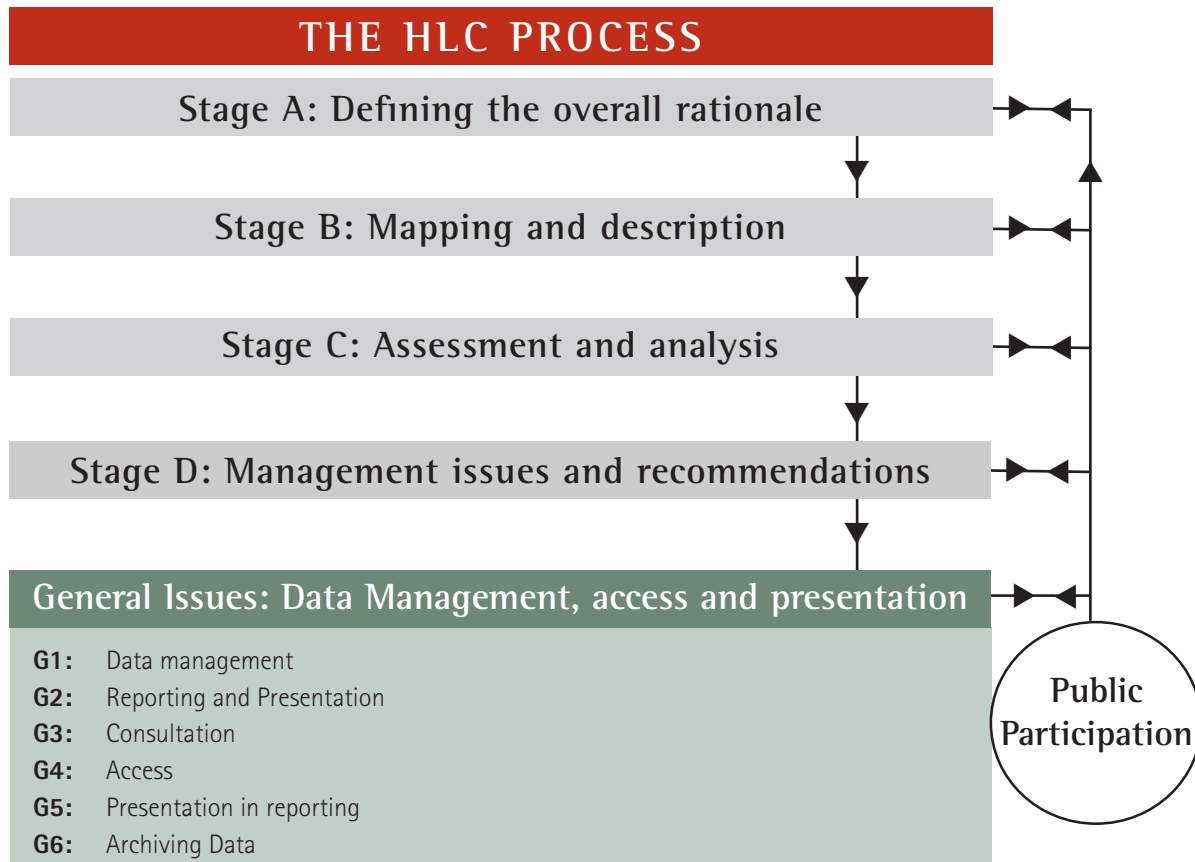


Figure 30: Stage G of the HLC process

G1: Data management

Does the data structure work to handle different sources of information?

Much of the information used in HLC is available in digital form that can be imported directly into the project database. Use of separate data tables for each source allows them to be represented as separate layers in the GIS. The file structure within any GIS system is very important, distinguishing between the data (shapefiles) and mapping generated (projects).

- Within each attribute table, different fields must be allocated to the separate properties associated with the data, following the correct naming conventions (shapefiles can have 10 character field names and no whitespaces are permitted).
- One field in each attribute table should consist of a unique identifier for the data feature. Where features appear in more than one table (e.g. separate tables for character types in different periods for the same land parcel) then the same ID should be used to assist with analysis.

Full or partial use of GIS?

GIS provides a powerful tool for both the analysis and mapping of landscape character and for assessing the possible impacts of change (for example through viewshed modelling and 3D imaging).

- Full exploitation of the potential of GIS (using multiple layers of geographically defined polygons with data attached to be combined or intercut to create other entities) allows extremely flexible and sophisticated manipulation and interpretation of data
- Basic GIS mapping tends to create a single layer of HC assessment with data attached (albeit based on several layers of baseline data). Analysis is reliant on manipulating data attached to polygons to group them in different ways

While GIS is a powerful tool, it can introduce a high level of technical complexity so user needs and likely technical abilities are an important consideration in choosing how GIS will be used and how data is constructed and updated.

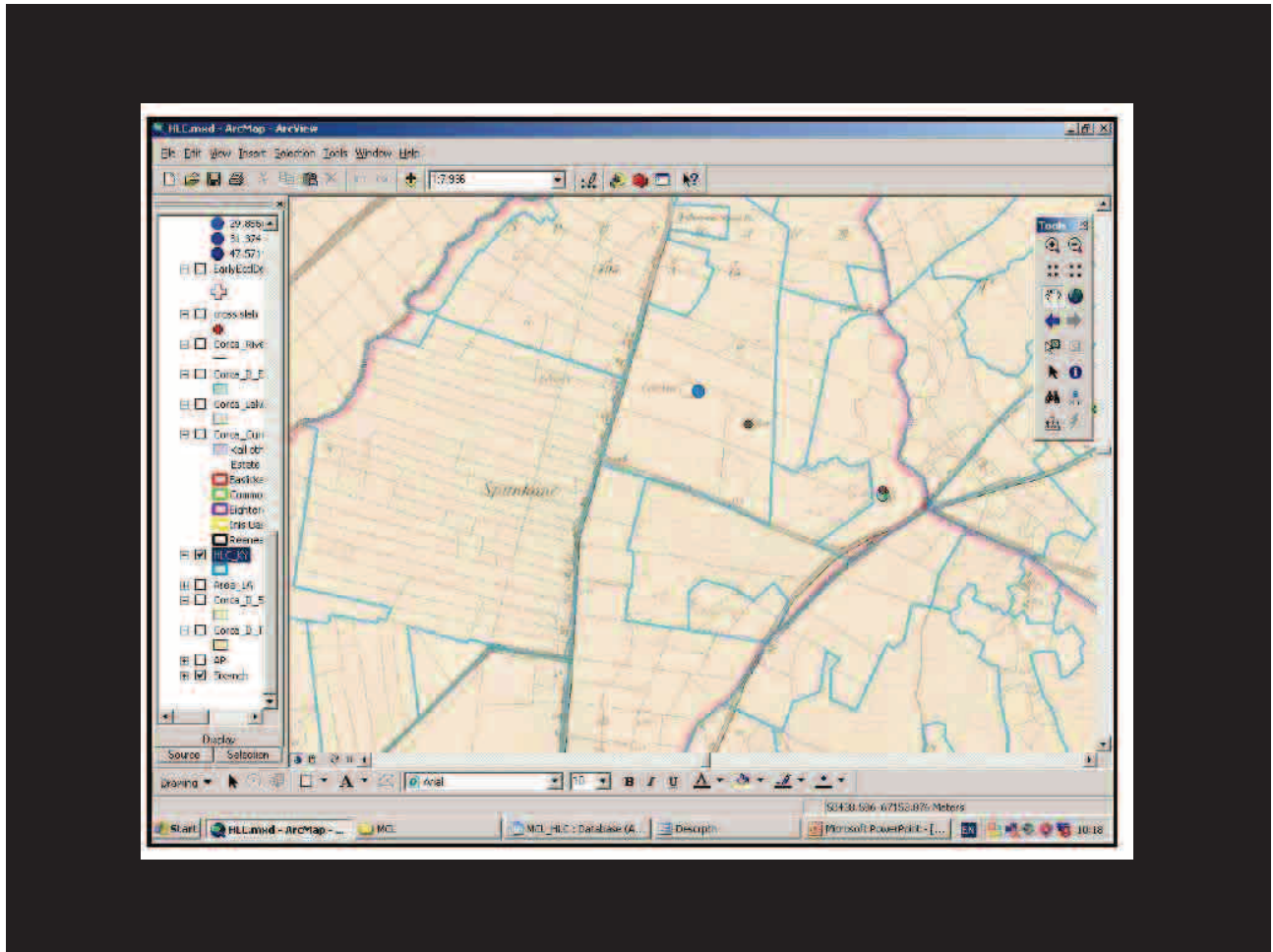


Figure 31: The use of GIS in the Making Christian Landscapes project

Can layers be interrogated effectively?

The data table for each layer should enable many different categories of information attributes to be linked to each point or polygon.

- Selected information can appear automatically as a 'label' or can be brought up on screen as required – for this to be a user-friendly function, the titles for the data fields need to be carefully designed
- The use of unique identifiers and separation of attributes into distinct fields allows detailed and flexible interrogation

Is database structure adequate to meet all needs?

Some users will only require a broad-brush view of landscape character; others will require more detail.

- Having a field attached to HC polygons containing a simple non-technical descriptive text is useful for interrogation of online mapping by non-experts (text limit is 254 characters)
- For more sophisticated analysis, information on different attributes and values must be allocated to distinct fields
- Simple abbreviations for character types rather than a numerical coding system can be helpful in making mapping easy to use for a variety of users Have appropriate control terms been developed to ensure consistency and accuracy of data?

Typological terminology is an appropriate approach, with clear identification of related information such as historic character type at different periods.

- Use of standard terms is desirable at least for commonly recurring character types
- Use of good 'metadata' (data about data)
- The logic behind the terms should be clear to non-expert users
- The use of coding that is specific only to the project or database potentially reduces the versatility of the information systems and options for merging different studies to cover larger areas

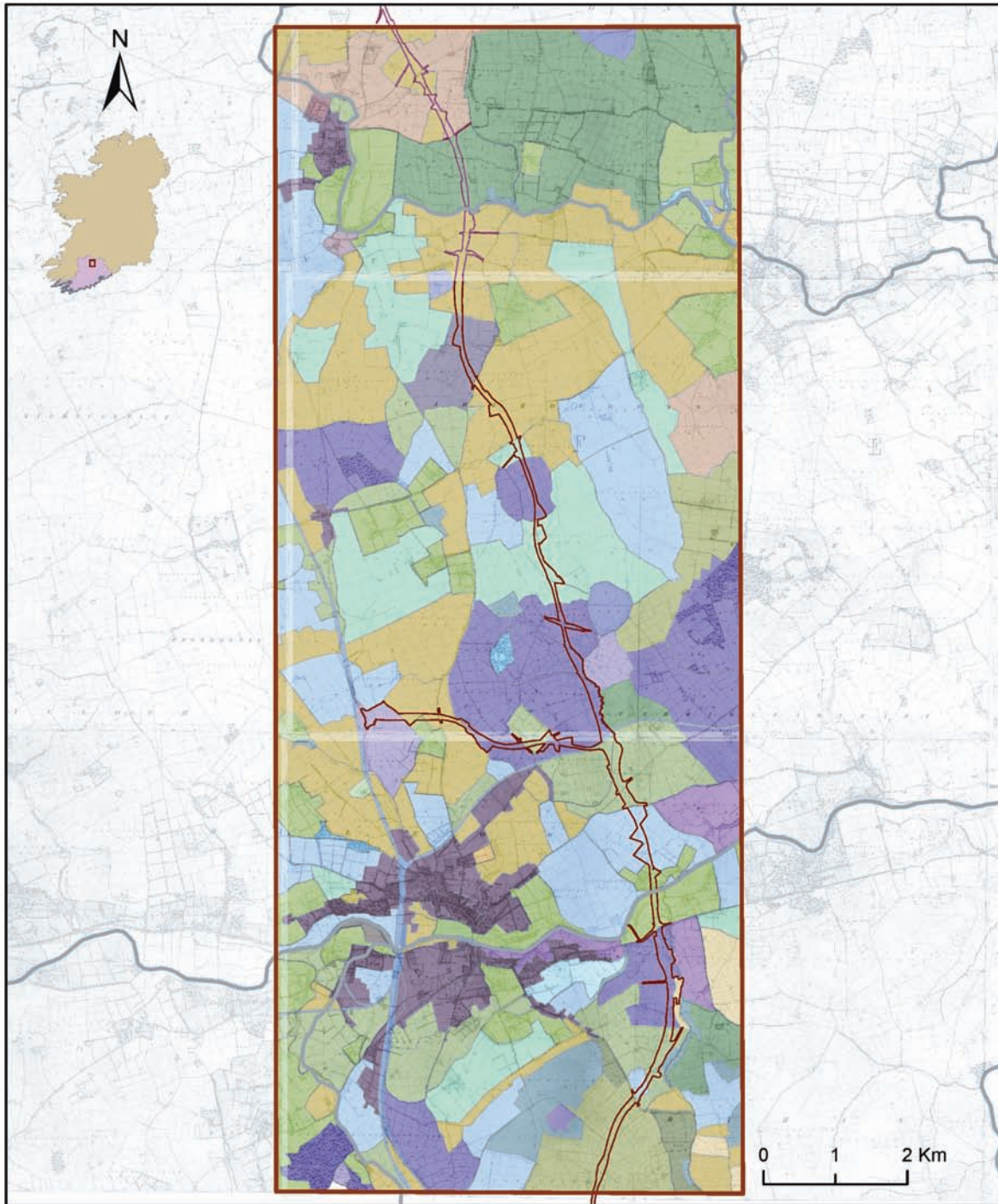
G2: Reporting and presentation

How far should HLC projects adopt standard report formats?

While particular attention should be paid to the specific purpose and needs of the project, the various stages outlined above must be reflected in the structure of reports and explanatory handbooks that accompany Historic Characterisation studies.

Detailed contents and structure may vary with the type and context of the study, but should typically include:

- Establishment of context and purpose, relationship to previous work
- Selection of data sources
- Summary of the GIS and database (or other methods of data handling and analysis)
- Explanation of relative input of desk-based assessment, fieldwork and consultation
- Characterisation – mapping, HCTs, character descriptions
- Assessment of significance and value



Field Boundary Types			
Description			
	SRGC Golf course		PFDF Demesne farmland
	CLRD Roads and services		FISM Irregular enclosure – small fields
	CLRY Railway and associated marshalling yards etc		FMIX Mix of regular/ irregular straight/sinuuous boundaries
	DFUC Devotional Funerary only - urban cemetery		FMOD Fields from 20thC reorganisation/boundary removal
	DRCH Church complex		FMOD19C Fields from 19thC reorganisation/boundary removal
	DRMO Monastic establishment		FOM Meadow
	EC Enclosed former commons		FSAF Assarted farmland
	FHR Historic regular field system		FSLG Large straight bounded fields
	FHRM Historic regular field system		FMSD Medium straight bounded fields
	FILG Irregular enclosure – large fields		FSSM Small straight bounded fields
			LCRR Linear Communication Route Railway line
			MFPM Post medieval fortifications (1500-1800)
			PPWD Designed landscape woodland
			RS Recreational sports
			River Blackwater
			TAWG Assarted mixed woodland
			TP Plantation woodland
			TWDA Historic and ancient (pre mid 19thC) woodland
			TWPL Replanted woods
			U Urban
			URHP Hospital

Figure 32: This HLC project examined the corridor of the proposed N20 road scheme to the north and east of Mallow in Co Cork (Ken Hanley/National Roads Authority)

- Discussion of relative sensitivity and capacity to absorb change
- Assessment of pressures, impacts or effects
- Recommendations for managing change through policy, further guidance, revision of land allocation, mitigation or pro-active management actions
- Provisions for monitoring change
- Appendices (including results of consultation; guidance on using GIS/data; technical specifications for data structure etc)

The project report should be organised to follow this same structure, which will enable users to access information easily and facilitate comparisons between projects in different areas.

G3: Consultation

Consultation is an important part of the process – this is not a distinct stage but occurs throughout the whole process. It should be considered as an integral part of every stage of a HLC project.

Ongoing consultation with heritage bodies and relevant governmental levels

The majority of HLC projects are commissioned either by government at national, regional or local level, or heritage bodies such as the Heritage Council. A steering group should be established with representatives from relevant stakeholders and others. Regular consultation with the steering group should take place at every stage of the project. This will ensure that:

- The aims and purpose of the project are clear at its start
- Opportunities to agree and refine the methodology are addressed
- Comments are offered on emerging results before they are finalised for wider consultation

Where the project has a different origin, or there is no steering group, it is important that consultation with the relevant level of government and heritage bodies is put in place at the start.

If the results are to have wide application, HLC projects must maintain an awareness of other initiatives in the area and the policy framework in operation.

Wider consultation with other professionals, academics, local groups

There are significant potential benefits to be gained from wide ranging consultation:

- Up-to-date information on state of historic environment knowledge and thinking
- Understanding of what is seen as significant by different stakeholders and why
- Understanding of how people interact with landscape around them
- Identification and sharing of conflicts of priorities
- Improved awareness of projects leading to better sense of relevance

The consultation can be carried out in a variety of ways including:

- Talks
- Articles, in specialist publications, local newspapers and on relevant websites
- information leaflets
- Workshops
- Questionnaires – posted, telephone, online, and face-to-face
- Meetings
- Website – a project website or pages on local authority site with relevant links. Links can also be established from other sites
- On-line discussion forum of the use of social media fora
- Email – set-up an email list of interested stakeholders to receive updates and a dedicated email address to receive comments and questions



Figure 33: Wide ranging consultation can increase understanding of what is seen as significant by different stakeholders and can create an improved awareness of projects

Where HLC is carried out to inform preparation of planning documentation there needs to be separate consultation. HLC surveys may well be commissioned to inform the preparation of development plans or design guidelines. If the HLC is itself to be adopted as formal guidance, there are statutory requirements for the plans and policies themselves to undergo public consultation. This may also apply to supporting guidance.

When considered alongside the much broader scope of development plans, the different types of documents that HLC can contribute to will attract a response from a different range of stakeholders.

These forms of consultation should help to refine coverage of issues and recommendations for future management of the historic landscape character.

G4: Access

Accessibility of outputs

HLC projects carried out as part of the local authority planning process should be made available to a range of stakeholders beyond the decision-makers within that authority.

- Development Plans may refer to LCA and HLC, and these should either be included as Appendices if adopted policy, or published (digitally and in hard copy) as separate supplementary guidance (formal or informal)
- Where HLC is commissioned to inform development of master plans or design statements the same need for availability applies

The objectives or possible outcomes of HLC often include encouragement of tourism, local heritage-related initiatives and increased awareness of the local character but, without access to the results, these objectives will not be fulfilled.

Accessible HLC information will increase the cost-effectiveness of other characterisation projects carried out in the area at different scales and for different purposes, as some strands of research or data gathering will not need to be duplicated. It will also improve consistency of characterisation, making comparison and identification of wider patterns easier.

Researchers who carried out the project may be in a position to host results on their website, but this needs to be publicised. Links between websites help raise awareness.

How and where should the HLC be accessible and for what use?

There are many options to deliver your final mapping to the online community and for physical access to HLC results. These include: open and restricted uses; hard copy access; and various levels of online or downloadable access to reports and to GIS data. When the GIS facility is disseminated it should be born in mind that, while the datasets shapefiles can be used on any system, the mapping or projects maybe software dependent. In addition, the layers do not have symbols and colours attached to them, and these will need to be set.

Archival arrangements provide a further strand of long term access.

If HLC is to influence policy and management and inform research it must be widely available. On the publication of reports, copies should be sent to all stakeholders and consultees, including relevant organisations at national level and in neighbouring areas.

- Libraries and museums – copies of reports should be lodged with university libraries, but should also be made available in all local libraries and museums. The role of IT facilities in libraries is increasing and versions of the GIS mapping (projects) could be made available



Figure 34: Landscape character can be illustrated by original sources such as historic aerial photography. This aerial photograph shows Clogher Head, Co Louth, and dates from 1940.

- Local authority websites – at least the key GIS layers, both projects and selected datasets (usually in shapefile format), together with a short introduction to the project could be made available. A PDF download of the full report could be included
- The full range of GIS datasets and projects is generally only available within the user organisation or by arrangement so as to comply with the EU INSPIRE Directive and more general trends in terms of making data publicly available
- Access to the full range of GIS datasets and projects is generally charged
- Hard copy reports – there will be a level of demand for hard copies of the reports. IT access is not yet universal and the facility to print copies, particularly with colour, is not always feasible. A suitable charge can be applied
- CD available on demand – copies of the report could be produced very quickly, with a small cost applied
- Summary leaflet – this would include a short description of the project, a copy of the main HLC map, and information upon where to obtain further details. This document would be of particular use in raising awareness around the time of publication

User guidance and application tests

Users of historic characterisation studies will often be non-specialists rather than the experts engaged in the process of characterisation. It is therefore essential that results should be accessible, and the uses and potential of the facility fully understood. This can be achieved through:

- User needs and user-friendly facilities built into the design of the project
- Discussion with users in developing data structure and format
- Demonstrations and training both on hypothetical and real-life applications
- A user friendly reference manual
- Technical support

G5: Presentation in reporting

Ensure intelligibility and ease of use by key users, including non specialists

The issues of intelligibility and ease of use relate to the paper report, the associated GIS and to any online access. Some of the following points apply to a particular format, but the principles behind them are general:

- Do not assume previous knowledge – if appropriate refer to appendices.
- Assure that the report is logically structured
- Cross-reference between report sections and figures (e.g. mapping should show features such as peat deposits referred to in the text)
- Include a glossary – the use of jargon should be avoided, but some terms are specific
- Technical detail, which will deter non-technical readers, should appear in an appendix (e.g. gazetteer of RMP, RPS; GIS structure and methodology)
- For online GIS based reports – include an introductory page, copy of report, and interactive map layers

Allow for different levels of access from expert/technical to decision makers and non-experts

Decision-makers will generally maintain an existing GIS system into which the HLC layers can be incorporated. Many of the data layers used in the characterisation process may already be held within this. For digital data the appropriate scope and standards for transfer of data must be determined. At the start of the project, important decisions must be made about the relationship between existing data systems, which GIS data will need to feed into, and about how the data structure will allow for ready transfer.

Where the database and GIS are accessed by non-specialist users, the structure must contain sufficient levels of protection to prevent alteration or deletion of information. Such precautions are routinely part of set-up for online facilities, but the level of expertise of users within organisations must be considered.

Make best use of graphics (including old maps, photographs, graphs, diagrams)

HLC reports will include a series of illustrations and maps (often taken from the GIS) and may include aerial and ground level photographs of the project area.

Illustrations of historic character derived from original sources, photography and GIS mapping of character types are fairly standard aspects of any HLC. Consideration should also be given to graphs and diagrams to illustrate higher level analyses, exploring particular themes, periods or issues, values, trajectories of change, survival, condition sensitivity or vulnerability.

Clarity and legibility of presentation (e.g. use of colours in character mapping)

The legibility of maps and diagrams needs to be considered, both from the point of view of content and design, and more detailed choices such as colouring palettes.

Mapping of HC Types is an especially important area for clarity of presentation because the number of different HCTs identified may be as high as 40 for a particular project. This presents a special challenge for mapping in terms of colour-coding if the map as a whole is to provide a general impression of character rather than mere technical data. Particular points to consider are

- HCTs which can be grouped in broad categories should have related colours (e.g. shades of green for types of field enclosure)
- Shades should be sufficiently different to be distinguishable at most levels of zoom on screen and at the selected scale of printed maps
- Colours may vary between that visible on screen and in the printed form (e.g. yellow is traditionally hard to photocopy)
- Small areas of colour (in keys/legends for example) may appear different from larger blocks

User friendly instructions, keys obvious, sensible print facility

GIS is a sophisticated tool which is not readily accessible to an inexperienced user and it is not normally appropriate to provide access to the full range of tools as part of an online map facility. The design of the website should conform, at least in part, to the house style of the supporting organisation, but the following features must be considered

- Clarity over whether the browser tool bar or embedded tools should be used
- Facility to print separately drop down lists such as keys/legends
- Obvious information on availability of layers (e.g. some not available at particular scales)
- Flexible zoom controls, preferably with area zoom facility as well as whole screen
- Provision of free scanning 'hand' tool, rather than just use of arrows
- Where only arrows are provided, provide a re-centre button
- Facility to print and download current map view
- Facility to print 'map only' so it covers full page or with key
- Facility to move between pages without needing to reset layers and scale
- Ability to search on a particular place – users often wish to study their own locality

G6: Archiving data

Deposit copies of material

The destination archive must be determined at the start of the project. This should ensure there is the capacity to receive material and that the appropriate standards are achievable.

The value of any HLC project is significantly reduced if the information cannot readily be accessed, and this becomes a greater issue after the immediate lifetime of the project. In addition, the published report and GIS only represent the final analysis and assessment, although they often reproduce at least some of the baseline data.

The following key issues should be noted when deciding where a project is to be archived.

- Interim working, fieldwork reports, copies of plans, which have not been incorporated as a layer on the GIS, and photographs may all be of use to subsequent revisions of the project
- Follow-up initiatives that operate on a different scale or address different issues from the original HLC, or are begun significantly after the original study may well need to access original data.

Copies of HLC projects, including the GIS, could be deposited with the National Monuments Service of the Department for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Subject to agreement, data could be deposited in the Department's Swords Archival facility, while the Heritage Council's emerging Heritage Viewer map is intended as a national portal for spatial data.

Copyright and open access

Copyright issues also need to be determined at the outset, an issue of particular concern when dealing with digital datasets and mapping derived from different organisations.

- The Marine Irish Digital Atlas (MIDA) provides access to a wide range of datasets on its website, each under an agreement with the owner of that data

Another major issue for archiving of reports is the trend towards 'Open Access', by which research material is made freely available to all within a certain period after its original publication.

- The former Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering & Technology (IRCSET) led the way in Ireland when it adopted an Open Access Policy in 2007. The availability of HLC information in this way would encourage more widespread use of the material

Non-digital archives

It may not be viable (in terms of storage as well as cost of production) for a stock of hard copy reports to be maintained, but there should be a facility to reproduce copies as required from a digital record.

In the long term, non-digital research materials used in HLC should be transferred to a specialist archive facility. This may be one maintained at a local level in a local library, usually through the museum service, or by some national organisation. The archive body will have a particular policy on what kinds of material it can accept and how it should be prepared for deposition.

Archiving standards

It is important that HLC archives should be deposited in accordance with established standards.

- Such standards were set out as part of the establishment of the Dublin City Archaeological Archive and for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Swords Archival facility
- In the UK, general guidance on the preparation of archives has been produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) and the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF), Archaeological Archives (AAF 2007)

Digital archives have a great advantage in that they require much less storage capacity than physical records. However, ICT is a rapidly evolving area and a major issue for digital archives is ensuring that their format does not become obsolete, rendering the material inaccessible to future users. It is therefore essential that copies of the digital archive be deposited in a facility where the curation process is equipped to deal with future maintenance.

- All digital records supplied to such a facility should conform to the appropriate guidance on format and medium of transfer in the same way as non-digital archives. The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in the UK publishes guidance on standards for digital archives and the Digital Repository of Ireland based at the Royal Irish Academy may be worth consulting with also.

SUMMARY

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is concerned with identifying the contribution of the past to the landscape as it exists in the present and operates over the whole of area under consideration.

HLC contributes to the understanding and conservation of the historic landscape through a range of different applications, benefiting a range of users, including planners, developers, land managers, landscape and heritage specialists, academic researchers and community groups.

This guidance is designed to help those commissioning and carrying out HLCs to ensure that the results are robust, flexible and reasonable.

It is also intended to help those using HLC to understand its purpose and uses. More detailed information on the background to HLC is available, including the documents listed in Appendix D Bibliography.

While there may be considerable variation in the coverage or purpose of an HLC study, all projects should adhere to the following KEY PRINCIPLES:

1. Establish from the outset the principal intended users and the context of the study
2. Ensure that public participation is an integral part of all stages of the HLC process
3. Define Historic Character Types (HCTs) in relation to a set of generic definitions to facilitate integration and cross-referencing with other HLC studies
4. Identify the likely trajectories of change and the sensitivity of the historic landscape to the potential impacts arising
5. Present strategies for conserving, enhancing and exploiting the historic landscape
6. Consider a range of users in determining the format of reports, mapping etc⁹¹
7. Ensure that the HLC and supporting data remain accessible for the future

APPENDIX A: BASELINE DATA CHECKLIST

TYPE OF DATA	GENERAL RATIONALE AND APPLICATION AT DIFFERENT SCALES	SOURCE	✓/X
<i>Modern map base</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide basis for characterisation polygons b) Accurate spatial identification of character and relevant features c) Overlay and amalgamation with other data sets d) Retrieving relevant natural data (e.g. topography, drainage, aspect) e) Allowing retrieval of current human landuse (e.g. communication routes extent of settlement, broad current landcover (woods, moor and bog, enclosed land), place names, boundaries) 	<i>OSi mapping access may depend on use rights of body commissioning the study</i>	
<i>National/ Regional</i>	1:50,000 and smaller scale digital mapping	OSi	
<i>County/ Sub-Region</i>	1:50,000; 1:10,000	OSi (or LPA etc)	
<i>District Local</i>	1:50,000; 1:10,000; (1:2500 desirable)	OSi (or LPA etc)	
<i>Local/ Site</i>	1:50,000; 1:10,000; 1:2500	OSi (or LPA etc)	
<i>Vertical APs / imagery</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assist basis for characterisation b) Enable identification of relict landscape c) Enable correct spatial identification d) Enable overlay and amalgamation with other data sets 	<i>OSi and other sources vary (see Lambrick 2008)</i>	
<i>National/ Regional</i>	CORINE Landcover 1990-200 Various forms of digital satellite imagery provide evidence of landcover and relict landscape/ survival OSi1:5000 orthographic/ and or Google Earth (in some areas) can provide detailed evidence where needed	MIDA EPA or OSi/Google	
<i>County/ Sub-Region</i>	OSi1:5000 orthographic/ and or Google Earth can provide detailed evidence (especially for characterising areas liable to change)	OSi/Google	
<i>District Local</i>	OSi1:5000 orthographic/ and or Google Earth can provide detailed evidence. Other holdings provide useful data on later 20thC change	OSi/Google	
<i>Local/ Site</i>	OSi1:5000 orthographic/ and or Google Earth can provide detailed evidence. Other holdings provide useful data on later 20thC change	OSi/Google	
<i>Geology and soils</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a)...Fundamental underlying influence on long term historic character b)...Significant factor in determining intensity of landuse survival c)...Significant factor in determining ecology and landuse capability 	GSI and MIDA provide digital mapping, see also the Heritage Council Map Viewer available through www.heritagecouncil.ie in mid-2013	
<i>National/ Regional</i>	1:500,000 or larger scale solid and drift geology and soils at national scale available online	MIDA, EPA or OSi/Google, see also the Heritage Council Map Viewer available through www.heritagecouncil.ie in mid-2013	
<i>County/ Sub-Region</i>	1:500,000 or larger scale solid and drift geology and soils at national scale available online	GSI MIDA OSi/Google, see also the Heritage Council Map Viewer available through www.heritagecouncil.ie in mid-2013	
<i>District Local</i>	1:500,000 or larger scale solid and drift geology and soils at national scale available online	GSI MIDA	
<i>Local/ Site</i>	1:500,000 or larger scale solid and drift geology and soils at national scale available online	GSI MIDA	

<i>Historic maps</i>	a)...Important for chronology especially last 150-200 years b)...Fundamental to understanding change in last 150-200 years c)...Important for assessment of survival d)...Coverage and accuracy of maps before 1830s is somewhat variable	<i>Early OSi 6' is key to detailed character. (See Bonar Law 1997 for map bibliography) Prunty, J. Maps and mapping in local history Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2004 http://maps.osi.ie/publicviewer/</i>	
<i>National/ Regional</i>	Various national and regional historic maps; OSi 1 st ed 1'; OSi 1 st ed 6' (1830s-40s) for key areas	OSi	
<i>County/ Sub-Region</i>	OSi 1 st ed 6'; plus Downs Survey; Rocque; Taylor; later OSi (for key areas of interest)	OSi, National Library of Ireland	
<i>District Local</i>	OSi 1 st ed 6'; plus Downs Survey; Rocque; Taylor; later OSi	OSi, National Library of Ireland	
<i>Local/ Site</i>	OSi 1 st ed 6'; plus Downs Survey; Rocque; Taylor; later OSi; estate maps	OSi, National Library of Ireland	
<i>Built environment and designed landscape records</i>	a)...The period function, and material fabric of historic buildings can be important contributions to historic character of places b)... Architectural conservation areas are an important formal recognition of sensitive historic architectural and urban character c)... Designed landscapes are normally an Historic Character Type in their own right but may also indicate a wider area characterised by deliberate design	Local Authority websites and www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/	
<i>National/ Regional</i>	Density per 1 or 2 kilometre square of protected structures; spot points for ACAs and designed landscapes listed in National Inventory of Architectural Heritage	www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/	
<i>County/ Sub-Region</i>	Distribution by period of NIAH listed structures; note characteristic vernacular building materials; area of NIAH listed Parklands; areas of ACAs	/www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/ see also the Heritage Council Map Viewer available through www.heritagecouncil.ie in mid-2013	
<i>District Local</i>	Distribution by period and function of NIAH listed structures; note vernacular building characteristic materials; areas of ACAs	Local Authority websites www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/	
<i>Local/ Site</i>	Distribution by period materials and function of NIAH listed structures	NMS	
<i>Archaeological records</i>	a)...Important basis for identifying cases where raths, cashels etc are integral to field enclosure pattern b)...Important well-preserved and complexes can be the chief basis for defining landscape character areas (e.g. Rathcroghan) c)...Basis for indicating past landscape development before being documented in historic maps d) Can be important basis for links to abstract (traditional and cultural) values	NMS Record of Monuments and Places; Urban and industrial archaeology surveys; NMI topographical files; historic maps www.archaeology.ie see also the Heritage Council Map Viewer available through www.heritagecouncil.ie in mid-2013	
<i>National/ Regional</i>	Density per 1 or 2 kilometre square of RMP sites; spot points for monuments in state care; identification of towns listed in urban surveys; identification of major industrial archaeology centres	NMS; urban surveys	
<i>County/ Sub-Region</i>	Distribution by period of RMP sites; in areas of detailed study identification of areas where fields are integrated with ringforts, cashels and other monuments; identification of towns listed in urban surveys; identification of major industrial archaeology centres	NMS; urban surveys	
<i>District Local</i>	Distribution by period and function of RMP sites and NM topographical records; delineation of historic urban topography; delineation of industrial archaeology complexes; additional identifications from historic maps	NMS; NMI; urban surveys historic maps	
<i>Local/ Site</i>	Distribution by period and function of RMP sites and NM topographical records; delineation of historic urban topography; delineation of industrial archaeology complexes; additional identifications from historic maps and fieldwork	NMS; NMI; urban surveys historic maps	

<i>Placenames</i>	a)...Place names often contain historical information about a distinctive monument, topography or family/kinship group b)...This will often reflect what in the past was regarded as a defining characteristic of a place that may resonate for the present c)...Place names can be very distinctive of period or historical processes that have shaped the pattern of settlement and landuse	Ordnance Survey Ireland and Placenames Database of Ireland (PDI) www.logainm.ie/	
<i>National/ Regional</i>	Key historic place names	OSi/ PDI	
<i>County/ Sub-Region</i>	Distribution of place names with common indicative historical elements	OSi/ PDI	
<i>District Local</i>	Distribution of place names with common indicative historical elements	OSi/ PDI	
<i>Local/ Site</i>	Distribution of place names with common indicative historical elements	OSi/ PDI	
<i>Townland and other historic land unit boundaries</i>	a)...Important as ancient units of land management that reflects how mixed natural resources have been exploited b)...Important basis of cultural identity and sense of place c)...Availability of digital townland boundaries at 1:50,000 facilitates a variety of analyses on the basis of historic resource management	Ordnance Survey of Ireland See P.J. Duffy. <i>Exploring the history and heritage of Irish landscapes</i> , Maynooth 2007, see also the Heritage Council Map Viewer available through www.heritagecouncil.ie in mid-2013	
<i>National/ Regional</i>	Counties OSi digital file; baronies (e.g. McGarrity map 1846)	OSi	
<i>County/ Sub-Region</i>	Townlands 1:50,000 OSi digital maps (baronies from grouping townlands or historic maps)	OSi	
<i>District Local</i>	Townlands 1:50,000 OSi digital maps	OSi	
<i>Local/ Site</i>	Townlands 1:50,000 OSi digital maps	OSi	
<i>Habitats and nature reserves</i>	a)...Valued wildlife habitats often reflect historic patterns of landuse b)...Unimproved habitats also tend to preserve relict landscape features c)...Designated wildlife sites can be especially significant in these respects	see also the Heritage Council Map Viewer available through www.heritagecouncil.ie in mid-2013	
<i>National/ Regional</i>	Special Areas of Conservation; Special Protection Areas; Natural Heritage Areas	NPWS http://www.botanicgardens.ie http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData/	
<i>County/ Sub-Region</i>	Special Areas of Conservation; Special Protection Areas; Natural Heritage Areas; Hedgerow surveys (if done)	NPWS and or Local development plans	
<i>District Local</i>	Special Areas of Conservation; Special Protection Areas; Natural Heritage Areas; Hedgerow surveys (if done)	NPWS and or Local development plans	
<i>Local/ Site</i>	Special Areas of Conservation; Special Protection Areas; Natural Heritage Areas; Hedgerow surveys (if done)	NPWS and or Local development plans;	
<i>Maritime sources</i>	a) Additional specialist datasets are required for seascapes b) A few examples are given here and the sources quoted above will also have relevant datasets and some UK sources cover Irish waters.	www.bibliomara.ucc.ie see also the Heritage Council Map Viewer available through www.heritagecouncil.ie in mid-2013	
<i>Wrecks</i>	Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland	National Monuments Service Archive Unit, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht see www.archaeology.ie	
<i>Seabed maps</i>	Irish Marine Survey	Geological survey of Ireland	
<i>Charts</i>	Charts showing navigation routes and markers from 17th century to present day	UK Hydrographics Office	

APPENDIX B: OUTLINE CLASSIFICATION OF HISTORIC CHARACTER TYPES (HCTS)

LEVEL 1 Broad type	LEVEL 2 Generic type	LEVEL 3 Specific type)
C Coastal	CU Coastal upland and hard rock character	CURG Coastal rough ground
	CL Coastal lowland and soft rock character	CLMW Coastal marsh / wetland
		CLDN Dunes
		WNIN Intertidal estuary and beaches sand and muds.
W Water	WN Natural inland water bodies	WNLK Natural Lakes and Ponds
		WNRV Rivers
	WA Artificial water bodies	WARS Reservoirs and other artificial water bodies
		WALP Artificial lakes and ponds (not designed landscape)
B Bog	BB Blanket bog	BBUC Blanket bog uncut
		BBCT Blanket bog hand cut
		BBEN Blanket bog enclosed/ drained
		BBLB Blanket bog with evidence of lazybed cultivation
	BR Raised Bog	BRUC Lowland raised bog uncut
		BRCT Lowland raised bog hand cut
		BREN Lowland raised bog enclosed/ drained
		BRLB Raised bog with evidence of lazybed cultivation
O Open rough ground Et commonage	OR Open upland rough ground	ORGR Open upland rocks, outcrop, scree, cliffs
		ORGO Open upland rough ground and moorland
	OE Semi-open rough ground (open ground divided by large enclosures)	OEIR Rough ground large enclosures sinuous boundaries
		OEST Rough ground large enclosures straight boundaries
		OESC Former farmland reverting to scrub/ rough grazing
	OC Open lowland commonage	OCCO Open lowland grazing commonage
T Trees and Woodland	TW – Ancient and mixed woodland	TWDA Historic and ancient (pre mid 19 th C) woodland
		TWDM Mixed Woods (pre mid 19 th C with plantation)
		TWPL Replanted woods (conifer replanting of old wood)
	TP – Plantation woodland and forest	TPBM Broadleaved and mixed plantation (post mid 19 th C)
		TPSC Small farmland conifer plantation (post mid 19 th C)
		TPFO Large forestry conifer plantations (post mid 19 th C)

F Fields	FA – Ancient fields	FAPR Prehistoric enclosure - prehistoric enclosures etc with contiguous field systems (incl. co-axial fields)	
		FAEM Early medieval enclosure – cashels ringforts etc with small contiguous field systems	
	FH – Historic fields of distinct character	FHRC Rundale and clachan – grouped farmsteads and garden plots surrounded by shared fields or strips	
		FHLD Ladder farms – strip holdings with regular fields along replanned roads and linear farmsteads	
		FHLC Other field patterns established by late 19 th early 20 th cent land commission	
	FI – Sinuous bounded and irregular fields	FISM Irregular enclosure – small fields	
		FIMD Irregular enclosure – medium fields	
		FILG Irregular enclosure – large fields	
	FS – Straight sided and surveyed rectilinear fields	FSSM Small straight bounded fields	
		FSMD Medium straight bounded fields	
		FSLG Large straight bounded fields	
		FSTR Strip fields	
	FM –Fields of mixed origin and resulting from boundary loss	FMIX Mixed regular/ irregular forms and straight/ sinuous boundaries suggesting piecemeal development	
		FMOD Fields resulting from 20thC reorganisation or boundary removal	
	FO – Other fields for specialist productive uses	FOWM Watermeadow	
		FOOR Orchards	
		FOHO Market gardening	
		FOSF Horse breeding stud farms and paddocks	
	P Parks and Demesne Landscape	PF – Demesne farmland	PFDF Demesne farmland
		PP – Designed parks and gardens	PPPK Designed landscape parkland
			PPWD Designed landscape woodland
PPLP Designed landscape lakes and ponds			
PPHG House and surrounding formal garden			
PD – Deer Park	PDDR Deer park		
D Devotional, Ceremonial & Funerary	DR Devotional Religious complex	DRCH Church complex	
		DRMO Monastic establishment	
		DRPS Pilgrimage site	
	DF Devotional Funerary only	DFCR Rural cemetery (with or without former church)	
	DC Ceremonial	DCS Secular ceremonial or ritual site	

S Settlement in Rural areas	SM Medieval rural settlements	SMEC Settlement based on monastic/ early Christian	
		SMAN Manorial settlement with key historic elements	
		SMFT Failed town retaining some relict urban features	
	SV Settlements of 'village' form	SVGR Settlement surrounding green	
		SVSG Settlement with parallel or grid of streets	
		SVFM Village based on large farm	
		SVCH Chapel village	
		SVEV Designed estate village	
		SVDM Other relocated or demesne-based settlement	
		SVSB Rural 20 th century suburban-style estate	
		SC Settlement clusters of particular historic forms of	SCCR Clachan element of clachan and rundale
	SCLD Settlement element of Ladder field settlements		
	SCIN Industrial village settlement		
	SS Other street-form and linear settlements	SSLN Linear street settlements	
		SSTX Crossroads settlement (graig)	
		SSTR Settlement with radiating or irregular streets	
		SSCE Common edge settlement	
		SSCL Other amorphous hamlet or cluster	
	SH Holiday settlement complexes	SHHV Holiday village (mobile homes and chalets)	
	U Urban Settlement	UM Urban Medieval	UMEC Monastic/ Early Christian core
			UMMT Motte and bailey or Tower house complex
			UMWL Urban medieval to early post medieval defences
			UMBP Medieval burgh plots
			UMMP Market place
UP Urban post medieval		UPLG Plantation Town Grid Form	
		UPPL Planned post medieval urban expansion	
		UPES Estate planned town	
		UPMP Market place in post medieval planned settlement	
		UPOP Post medieval urban open space greens and parks	
UV Urban Victorian and Edwardian		UVTR General Victorian terraced housing	
		UVIN Victorian/ Edwardian industrial estates	
		UVVL Victorian and Edwardian suburban villas	
		UVPK Victorian and Edwardian urban parks	
		UVCM Victorian and Edwardian urban cemetery	
		UVGV Victorian and Edwardian government buildings	
		UVPR Victorian and Edwardian prison complex	

	UT Urban mid to late 20 th cent	UTPK Post WWI parks and amenity land
		UTSC School
		UTHP Hospital
		UTGV Government buildings
		UTPR Prison complex
		UTSH In town shopping centres
		UTWS Inner urban workshops and light industry
		UYCM Urban cemetery
		UTVL mid 20 th century villas
		UTTR mid 20 th century terraced housing
		UTSB mid 20 th century suburban estate
		UR Urban recent
	URSB late 20 th - 21 st cent suburban estate	
	URSC School	
	URHP Hospital	
	URGV Government buildings	
	URPR Prison complex	
	URSH In town shopping centres	
	URWS Inner urban workshops and light industry	
	URCM Urban cemetery	
I Industry and Commerce	IL Light industry and commerce	ILLT Light Industry
		ILWR Warehousing and distribution
		ILSH Out of town shopping malls retail parks
	IC Major Industry and commerce	ICPT Port and dock facilities
		ICMN Manufacturing Industry
		ICBR Breweries
U Utilities & Infrastructure	UE Utilities electricity and/or masts related	UEPR Power stations and incinerators
		UEEL Electricity substations
		UEBD Broadcasting facilities
		UEWF Windfarms
	UI Utilities with terminal based infrastructure	UTSW Sewerage and drainage facilities
		UTOG Oil and gas terminals and facilities

E Extractive Industry & Landfill	EX Mineral extraction	EXQR Quarry – hard rock
		EXQG Quarry – sand and gravel
		EXMN Mining
	EP Peat extraction	EPCO Commercial peat extraction
	EW Landfill	EWST Landfill and waste disposal
C Communication and transport	CR Linear communication routes	CLRD Roads and services
		CLRY Railway and associated marshalling yards etc
		CLRN River Navigation
		CLCN Canal
	CA Area communication and transport	CAAP Airport
		CAHB Harbours (not major ports and docks)
M Military	MF Military fortifications & batteries	MFPH Prehistoric to early medieval fortification
		MFMD Medieval fortification (non-urban)
		MFPM Post medieval fortifications (1500-1800)
		MFVE 19thC to WWI fortifications (1800-1918)
		MFMD 20 th to 21 st C fortification (post 1918)
	MS Military support facilities	MSBV Military barracks (Victorian pre WWI)
		MSBM Military barracks (Modern post WWI)
		MSSU Military supply depots
		MSAM Military ammunition bunkers facilities
		MSNA Military naval depot
R Recreation Sport & Tourism	RS Recreational sports	SRGC Golf course
		RSST Sports stadia
		RSPF Playing fields
		RSRC Race course
		RSMS Motor sports courses and facilities
	RT Recreational tourism	RTCP Seasonal caravan park and campsite
		RTMA Marinas
		RTVI Tourist visitor facilities and amenity land

APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY

Architectural Conservation Area (ACA): A place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, technical, social, cultural, or scientific, interest, or that contributes to the appreciation of a Protected Structure. This designation, determined by local authorities, aims to identify and protect areas of special significance and promote an awareness of this significance

Coherence: Historic legibility through physical survival of features, reflecting temporal or functional relationships.

Condition: The state of physical fabric.

Cultural association: Significant reference to or representation of an historic landscape in literature, art, poetry, song etc.

Distinctiveness: Characterisation factors that provide local differentiation in historic landscapes.

Geographical Information System (GIS): A GIS is a computer system capable of capturing, storing, analysing and displaying geographically referenced information, that is, data identified according to a location.

Group Value: Specific associations between historic features.

Historic Character: A combination of physical and perceptual attributes of a place from which past social, economic and cultural relationships and uses can be appreciated.

Historic Character Area (HCA): Areas of broader historic character with patterns of recurring HCTs or other factors (e.g. period, sensitivity).

Historic Character Attributes: How physical features and their interrelationships contribute to historic character.

Historic Character Type (HCT): Distinctive and repeated combinations of components defining generic historic usage of areas such as ancient woodland or enclosure.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC): The process of identifying the predominant historic character of the present landscape and reaching an understanding of how it came about.

Importance: Weight to be attached to features in relation to other competing needs, sometimes controlled by statutory designation.

Landparcel: A small division within a rural or urban landscape which has a particular HCT.

Landscape: Landscape is an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors (European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe 2000).

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA): An umbrella term for description, classification and analysis of landscape. Landscape character is the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape, and how this is perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, land form, soils, vegetation, land-use and human settlement. It creates a particular sense of place of different types of the landscape.

Legibility: The degree to which (and the manner in which) the past can be seen, appreciated and understood in the landscape. Legibility is perceptual, relying on the ability to 'read' the historic significance of surviving landscape features.

Marine Irish Digital Atlas (MIDA): A resource for coastal and marine information and spatial data in Ireland, See <http://mida.ucc.ie/>

Period: The sub-division of historical time from which a feature originated.

Rarity: The frequency of occurrence of a particular set of attributes (e.g. type, state of survival, period). Although all historic landscapes are by definition unique, certain character types may be repeated within a region or nationally giving rise to a measure of rarity.

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP): The Record of Monument and Places (RMP) is a statutory list of all known archaeological monuments provided for in the National Monuments Acts. There are over 120,000 Recorded Monuments included in the RMP. See www.archaeology.ie

Record of Protected Structures (RPS): The Record of Protected Structures lists all protected structures and buildings in a local authority area. This includes structures of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social, scientific or technical importance.

Relict: Visible physical features that have no extant use.

Relict landscape: Areas where relict remains survive in a sufficiently coherent form over an area for past social and economic use and interrelationships to be legible.

Sensitivity: A combination of the different attributes of rarity, survival, coherence and value.

Setting: The surroundings of any object regarded as its framework, not limited to the visual sphere, but including noise, inter-relationships and perceptions.

Survival: Whether physical fabric exists and in which broad form (buried/relict/extant).

Time-depth: The survival of features from periods of the past. Greatest time-depth is attributed to historic landscapes where many periods are represented, less time-depth where fewer are discernible.

Townland: The smallest and oldest division of land in rural areas (still regarded as significant by local people).

Trajectory of change: the nature and speed of change.

Value: Determined from a variety of attributes, including evidential, communal/social, aesthetic and economic.

Vulnerability: The extent to which features and relationships contributing to sensitivity can absorb change of a particular type and scale without unacceptable adverse effects on its character

APPENDIX D: FURTHER READING

- Aalen, F.H.A., Whelan, K. and Stout, M. (eds), 1997 *Atlas of the Rural Irish Landscape*, Cork University Press
- Aalen, F.H.A., Whelan, K. and Stout, M. (eds), 2011 *Atlas of the Rural Irish Landscape*, Cork University Press, second edition
- Aldred, O. and Fairclough, G., 2003. *Historic Landscape Characterisation: Taking Stock of the Method: The National HLC Method Review*, English Heritage, <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/hlc-taking-stock-of-the-method/> (accessed 14th September 2012)
- Cadw, 2003, *Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process*,
- Clarke J., Darlington J. & Fairclough G. (eds), 2003, *Pathways to Europe's Landscape*, EPCL
- Clark J., Darlington J. & Fairclough G., 2004, *Using Historic Landscape Characterisation*, English Heritage, <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/using-historic-landscape-characterisation/> (accessed 14th September 2012) Council of Europe 2000,
- Counihan, A. (ed.) 2012, *Townlands: A habitation*, Two Streams Press, Ireland
- Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002, *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland*, <http://www.snh.org.uk/www/sharinggoodpractice/cci/cci/guidance/main/content.htm> (accessed 14th September 2012)
- Countryside Agency & Scottish Natural Heritage 2003, *Topic Paper 5: Understanding Historic Landscape Character*, 2002
- Courtney, L & Goucher, K. 2007. *The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project of the Donabate-Portraine Peninsula, Revision 3*. Unpublished Report by Margaret Gown & Co Ltd for Fingal County Council
- Crowley, J., Smyth, W.J. & Murphy, M. (eds) 2012 *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine*, Cork University Press
- Department of the Environment and Local Government, 2000, *Landscape and Landscape Assessment, Consultation Draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities*
- Dyson Bruce, L., Dixon, P., Hingley, R. and Stevenson, J. 1999, *Historic Landuse Assessment (HLA), Development and Potential of a Technique for Assessing Historic Landuse Patterns*, Report of the pilot project 1996-1998, Historic Scotland and the RCAHMS, Edinburgh
- English Heritage, 2002, *HLC: Template Project Design*; 1st Edition version 1.1; December 2002, <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/hlc-template-project-design/>(accessed 14th September 2012)
- English Heritage and Cornwall County Council, 2008, *England's Historic Seascapes: Historic Seascape Characterisation (HSC)*, Truro.
- European Landscape Convention*, Florence, European Treaty Series -No. 176
- Fairclough, G. (ed.) 1999, *Historic Landscape Characterisation*, English Heritage: London
- Fairclough, G.J., Lambrick, G. and McNab, A. (eds.) 1999, *Yesterday's Landscape, Tomorrow's World - The English Heritage Landscape Project*, English Heritage: London
- Fairclough, G.J. and Rippon, S.J. (eds) 2002, *Europe's Cultural Landscape: archaeologists and the management of change*, EAC Occasional Paper no 2, *Europae Archaeologiae Consilium* and English Heritage, Brussels and London
- Hanley, K 2011. 'Profiting from the land: mixed fortunes in the historic landscapes of North Cork' in Conran, S., Danaher, E. & Stanley, M. (eds) *Past Times, Changing Fortunes*. Dublin: National Roads Authority
- Heritage Council 1999a, *Forestry and the National Heritage*, The Heritage Council: Kilkenny
- Heritage Council 1999b, *Agriculture and the National Heritage*, The Heritage Council: Kilkenny

- Heritage Council 1999c, *The Role of the Heritage Council in the Planning Process*, The Heritage Council: Kilkenny
- Heritage Council 1999d, *Policies and Priorities for Ireland's Landscapes*, The Heritage Council: Kilkenny
- Heritage Council, 2000 *Heritage Appraisal of Development Plans*, Heritage Council, Dublin
- Heritage Council, 2002, *Policy Paper on Ireland's Landscape and the National Heritage* http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/policypapers/HCI_-
- Heritage Council 2010 *Proposals for Ireland's Landscapes*, Kilkenny
- Heritage Council 2012 *Community-led Village Design Statement Toolkit*, Kilkenny
- Hickie, D., 1996, *Evaluation of Environmental Designations in Ireland*, Heritage Council: Dublin
- Highways Agency, 2007, *Assessing the Effect of Road Schemes on Historic Landscape Character*, Highways Agency: <http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Road-Schemes2.pdf?1255071085> (accessed 14th September 2012)
- Government of Ireland, *National Heritage Plan 2002*
- Julie Martin Associates with Alison Farmer Associates 2006, *Landscape Character Assessment in Ireland: Baseline Audit and Evaluation*, Heritage Council
- Lambrick, G., 2008, *Air and Earth: Aerial Archaeology in Ireland*, Heritage Council
- Lambrick, G., forthcoming *Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment in Ireland: A Review*, Heritage Council
- Ó Carrigáin, T & Sheehan, J 2010. *Making Christian Landscapes: Settlement, Society and Rationality in Early Medieval Ireland Phase 3 INSTAR Report submitted to the Heritage Council*
- Owen, S., Bishop, J., Moseley, M., Boase, R. & Coffey, F., 2008, *Enhancing Local Distinctiveness: Evaluation of Village Design Statements (VDSs) in Ireland (2000 to date)*, Heritage Council: Dublin
- PCL, 2003, *Pathways to Europe's Landscape*
- Roberts, B.K. & Wrathmell, S., 2000, *An Atlas of Rural Settlement in England*, English Heritage, London
- Roberts, B.K. & Wrathmell, S., 2002, *Region and Place*, English Heritage, London
- Sankey, D., 2008, *A Review of the Clare Historic Landscape Characterisation as a component of the Clare Landscape Character Assessment*, Heritage Council, Ireland
- Smith, G.F., Bligh, J., Delaney, E., Egan, M., O'Donovan, G., O'Donoghue, P., and O'Hora, K. 2010. Case studies on high nature value farming in Ireland: Aran Islands and North Connemara. A Report to the Heritage Council, Kilkenny, Ireland.
- Smyth, W.J., 2006, *Map-making, Landscapes and Memory. A Geography of Colonial and Early Modern Ireland, c. 1530-1750*
- Turner, S & Crow, J. 2010. 'Unlocking historic landscapes in the Eastern Mediterranean: two pilot studies using Historic Landscape Characterisation', in *Antiquity* 84, 216-229