

WORKSHOP I: Wednesday 2 October – Thursday 3 October 2013

**Ingrid Sarlöv Herlin ECLAS, SLU, Alnarp, Sweden,
Graham Fairclough Univ. of Newcastle, UK**

IDENTIFY, ANALYSE, CHARACTERISE THE LANDSCAPE
TO ACT, IMPROVE THE KNOWLEDGE

Introductory interventions for presentations on ‘Experiences of
landscape identification and assessment: national, regional
and local levels’

Cetinje, Montenegro, 2-3 October 2013

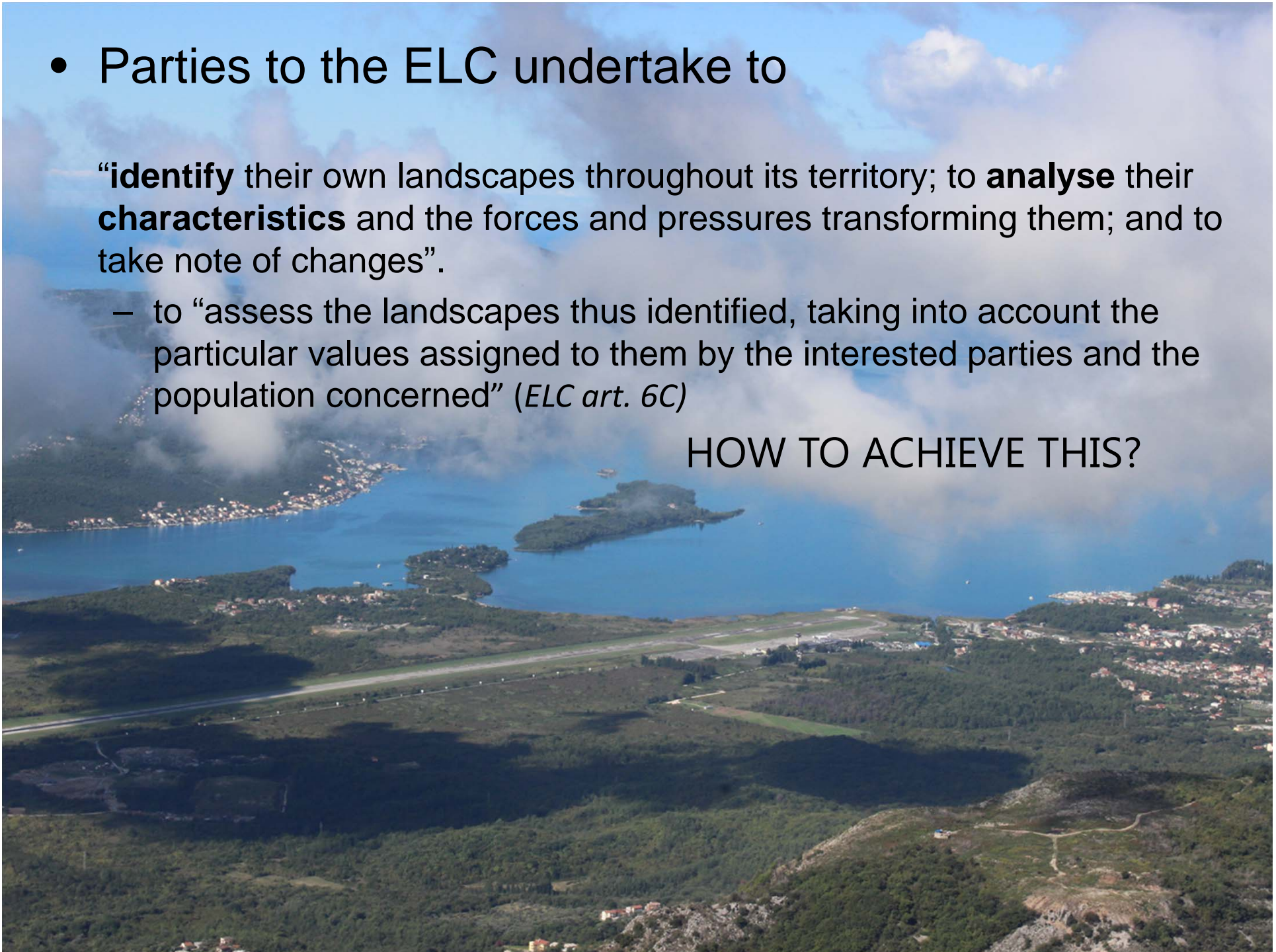


- Parties to the ELC undertake to

“**identify** their own landscapes throughout its territory; to **analyse** their **characteristics** and the forces and pressures transforming them; and to take note of changes”.

- to “assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned” (*ELC art. 6C*)

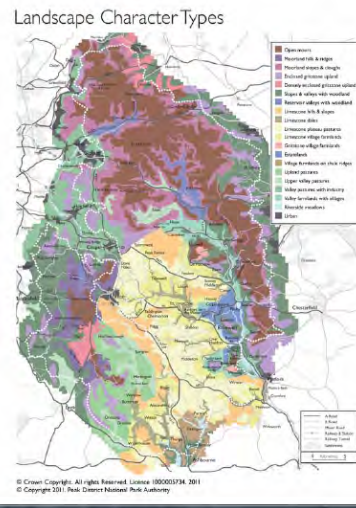
HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS?



- In the early 1990s, methods for characterising landscape began to be developed in the UK - other countries have looked to these for inspiration
- There are many different European approaches – is as important part of European diversity as any other aspect
- Using the ‘British’ approach in other countries, requires adaptations to different types of landscape, different needs and different cultural approaches to ‘landscape’



Two main methods in England: Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)



LCA

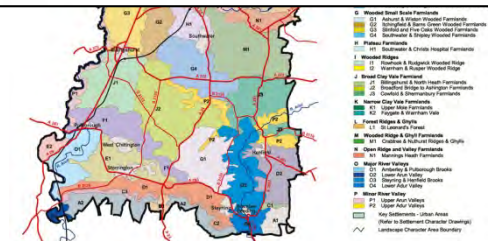
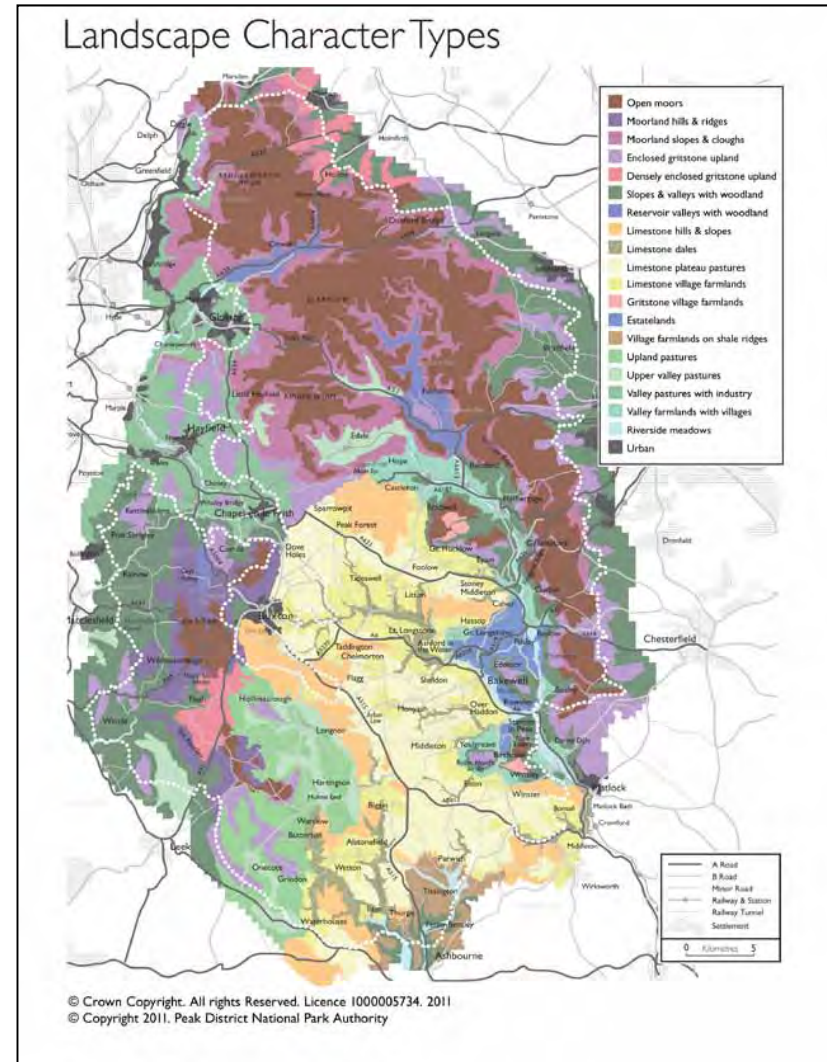
- A basis for landscape planning and management, spatial planning and other policy
 - Two separate methods for the historical and the present day dimensions of landscape is resulting from disciplinary differences dividing the landscape field



HLC

LCA was carried out mainly by landscape architects or planners, HLC by archaeologists and historians

- LCA at more detail is carried out for most of England by the local authority at county or district level
- They describe an area's overall character and how natural conditions, history and culture, settlement, land use and vegetation shape landscape character
- The method is based on a structured description of individual elements in the landscape, and how they form distinctive patterns

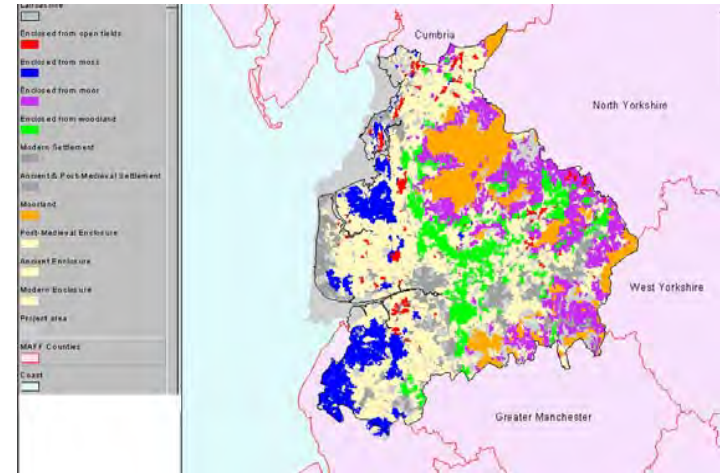


- Local LCAs are guiding planning decisions on the siting of new buildings, wind turbines, forestry plantations or other new elements in the landscape
- Also guiding the use of resources and agri-environmental management



Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

- First developed at English Heritage 1992 - 1994 to identify, describe and analyse the different patterns of the historical landscape
 - A criticism was that LCA is largely based on the region's visual properties and does not take account of the historical processes shaping the landscape
 - the relationships between vegetation, land use and human history was not always expressed in the LCA



Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC);

- *“If we can better understand how the landscape has changed throughout history we would have a better basis for the new changes in the landscape”*
- By examining the differences between early and modern maps it is possible to assess changes
- HLC method primarily describes the historical patterns that have been mapped in the landscape, whether they are more or less visible in reality



Landscape Character Types

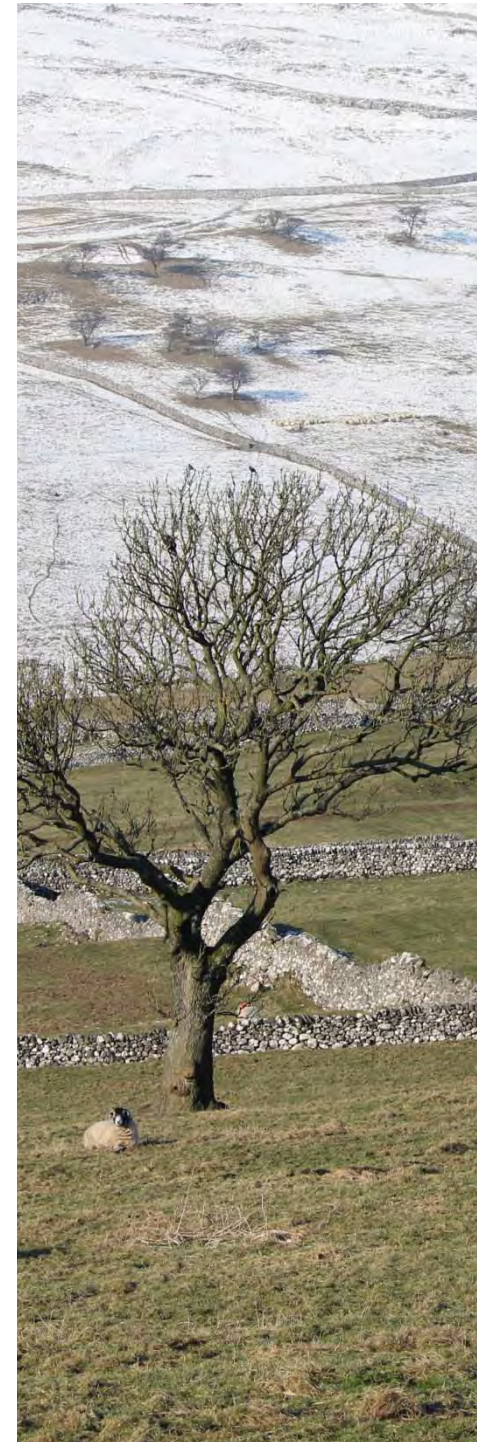
- distinct types of landscape relatively uniform in character
- can be found repeated across a region
- can occur in different parts of the country
- with respect to such as natural characteristics, historic land use, settlement patterns, etc.
- in LCA, often defined topographically and tend to take second place to Areas.
- in HLC they are defined by the through-time combinations of cultural land use and are primary and central to the method.

Landscape Character Areas

- discrete, separately-bounded and specific geographical areas with a unique combination of Landscape Character Types
- each landscape character area has an entirely individual character and local identity
- in HLC, Areas are usually drawn out of the Types for specific purposes;
- (alternatively; HLC types can be used to better describe the character of LCA Areas)

Key aspects of LCA – and of HLC

- A distinction between defining landscape character and evaluating it
- The initial characterisation; the process of identifying areas with a single character, classifying, mapping, and describe them - means no evaluation
- First in the next stage one has to consider how a new landscape feature may affect the landscape character, and if the change will be undesirable or desirable for the landscape



- LCA and HLC were initially used as support for experts
 - could also function as a tool to engage the public and stakeholders in management and development of an area

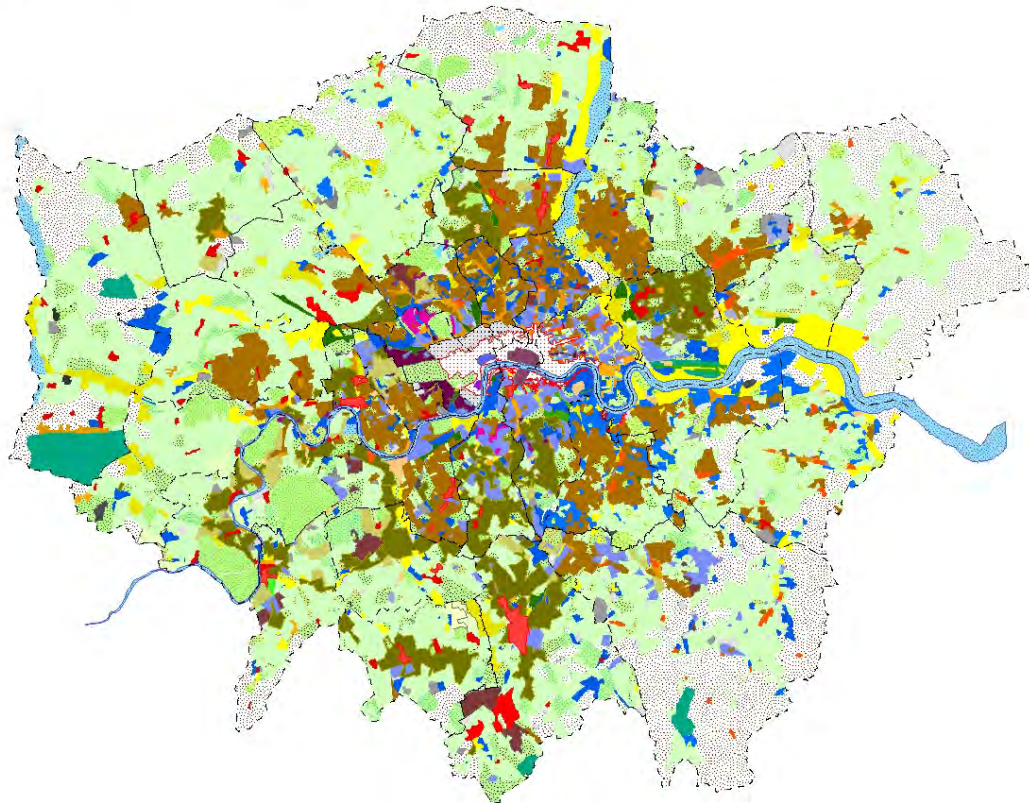
- Local participants could contribute to improving LCA and HLC;
 - convey valuable information that otherwise might not have come up, information that is unique to one area and considered locally important



Photo A. Wigley

“... urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas” *ELC art 2*

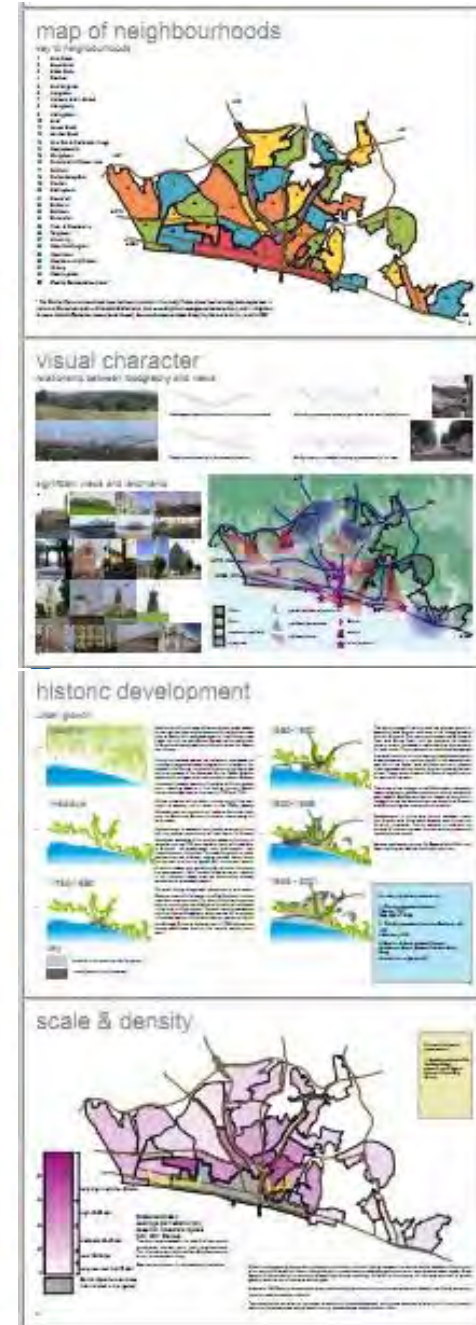
GREATER LONDON



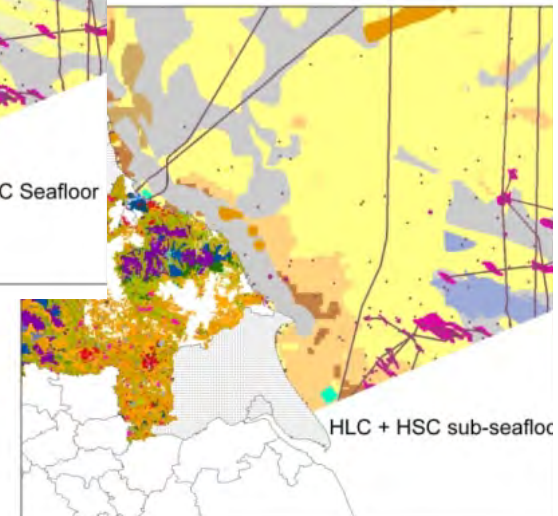
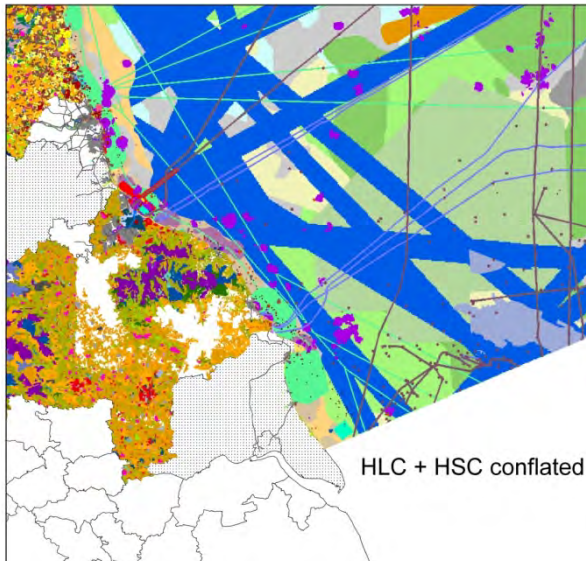
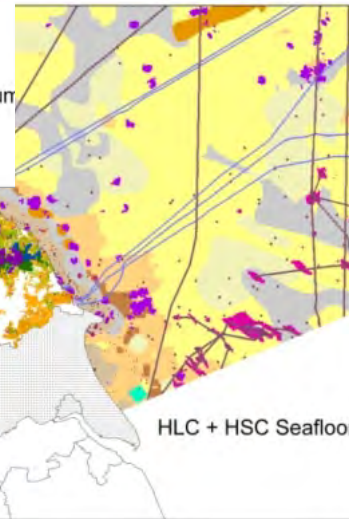
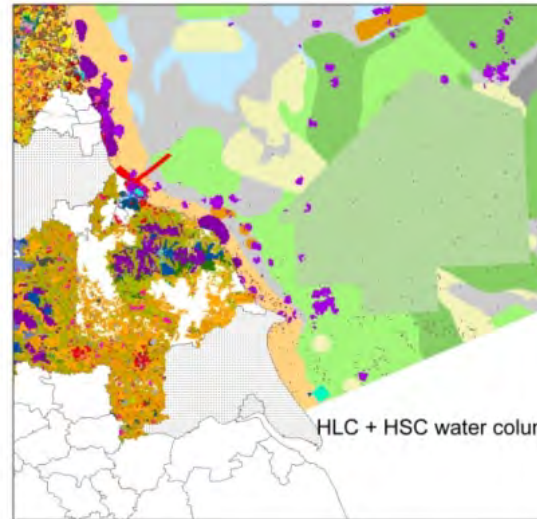
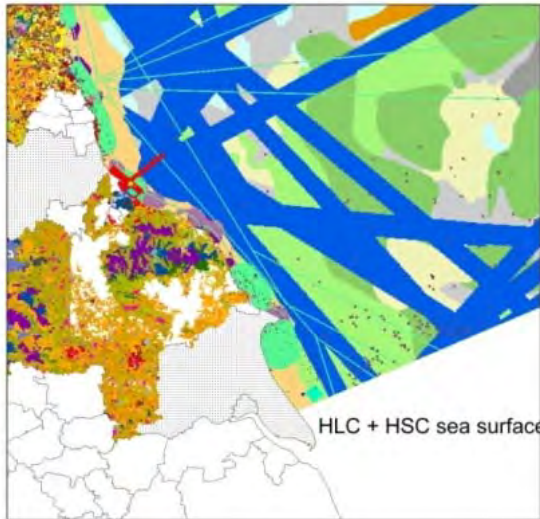
Produced September 2006 by EH Characterisation Team and GLSMR



BRIGHTON



“... urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas” *ELC art 2*



Historic seascape
characterisation

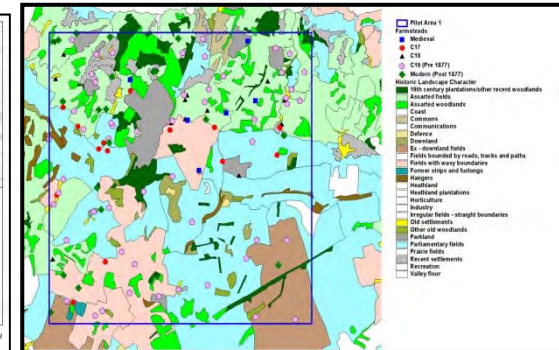
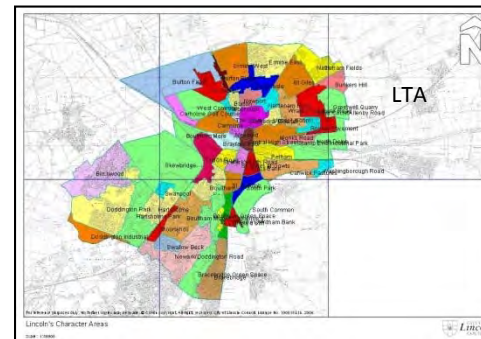
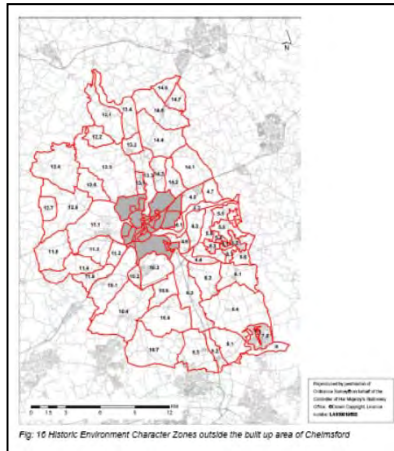
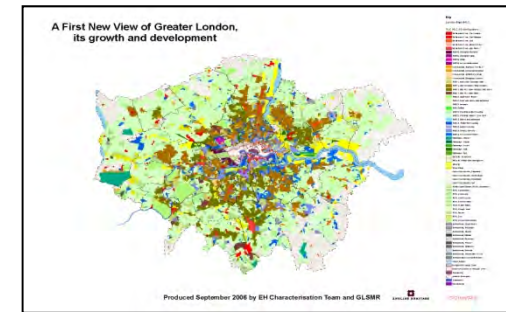
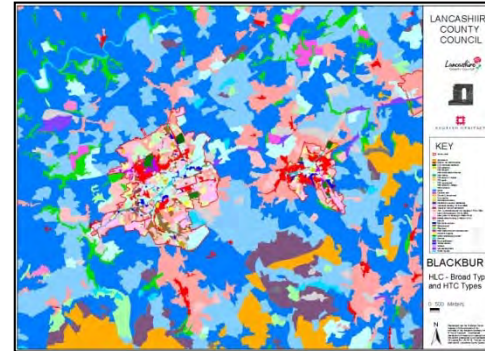
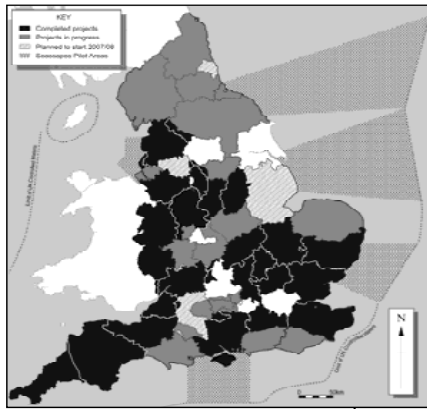
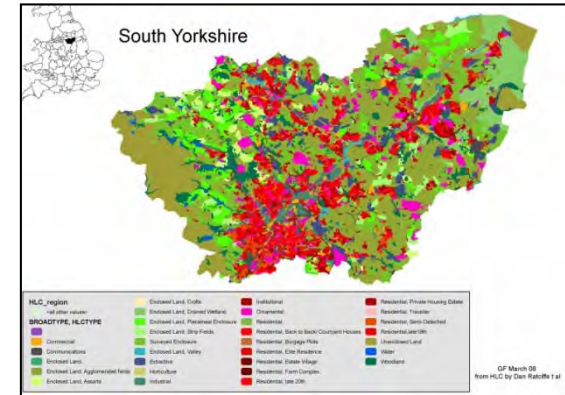
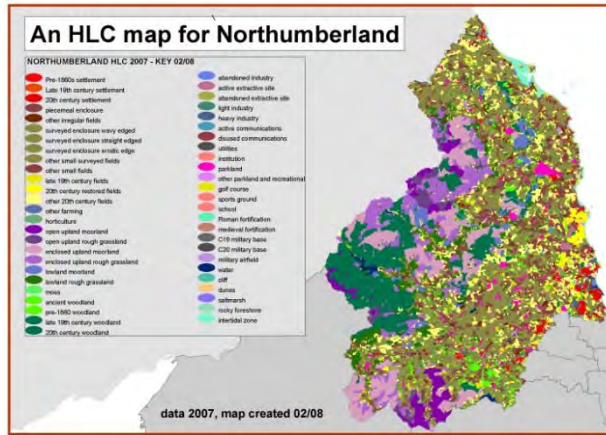
Scales

- Spatial scale
- Time-scales
- Scales of understanding
- Scales of interdisciplinary collaboration & interaction

Spatial scales

- 'Landscape scale' does not exist
- Scale of LC depends on eg type of data or expertise available, specific aims of project, disciplinary standpoint
- LC connects different scales
- can be used at different scales, from habitat to pan-European distributions, from anyone's backyard to the ambitions of a multi-national corporation, from an architect's design project to a regional spatial plan.
- LC can work at national and European level as well as local places

There are many types and scales of historic characterisation



Time-scales

- just are as important as spatial, & more complex
- link pasts to the present, facilitates visualisation of possible futures,
- timescales, both short and very long, of landscape, societal and environmental change.
- Not only the 'time-depth' of landscape - but questions of survival, aftermath, reuse. The past had its won past, which still affects our own landscape perceptions.

Scale of understanding

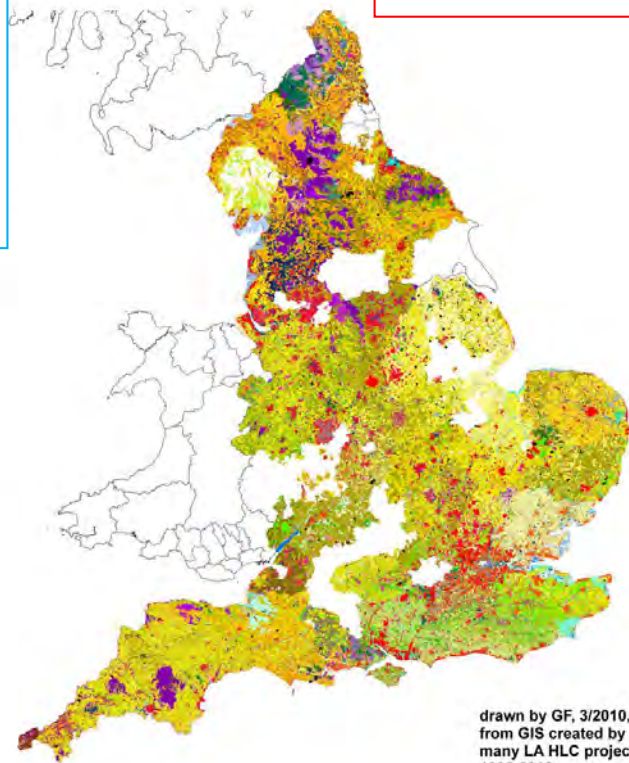
- Detail, resolution, generalisation, wider views. Allied to subjectivity, representation and imagination, a level of abstraction above and beyond the detail of the material landscape itself relevant to 'big issues'.

Example - HLC is more detailed scale than 'visual' LCA, often at the level of household and community (farmsteads, hamlet, villages) which create patterns of landscape character repeating within – and across - LCA character areas.

“Landscape Character Assessment”
 mainly topographical-visual, based on **areas**



“Historic Landscape Characterisation”
 mainly historical, based on **types**



October 2010

Summary thematic legend

- Urban, suburban
- medieval /postmed fields
- 18th-19th century fields
- 20th century modified fields
- Planned enclosure, northern regions
- unenclosed land, mainly uplands
- older woodland
- recent woodland
- drained land, wetlands
- ornamental landscapes
- water
- Communications
- Industry
- Military

drawn by GF, 3/2010,
 from GIS created by
 many LA HLC project officers
 1995-2010

Scales of interdisciplinary collaboration & interaction

- Scales of interdisciplinary (and trans-disciplinary) collaboration. We don't think this is solved yet.
- Example - HLC was separate from LCA but historic organisational reasons, but it still needs to be separate because most LC work is at best only multi-disciplinary.
 - (Is the same true for other faces of landscape - nature, experiential, participative, representational....)

LCA is not the only way.....



European families of landscape assessment?

LCA
(UK; adopted
elsewhere)

Atlas des
Paysages (Fr,
Wallonia),

HLC
(UK)

Nordic
approach

Landscape
biography
(NL)

National
character
maps (eg
Spain, Portugal)

Landschaftsbild'
assessments
(Germany, ?)

Historical
geography
(Flanders)

'Integrated 'LCA (wished for?)

Remember - beyond Europe

- What happens to the 'European' idea of landscape in other continents , meeting indigenous peoples' ideas?
- Lessons re-exported back to Europe? relevance of indigenous and intangible concepts to Europe?
- Why is LCA not used much beyond Europe?
- Can the ELC be sensibly translated into a World Landscape Convention?

Thank you

