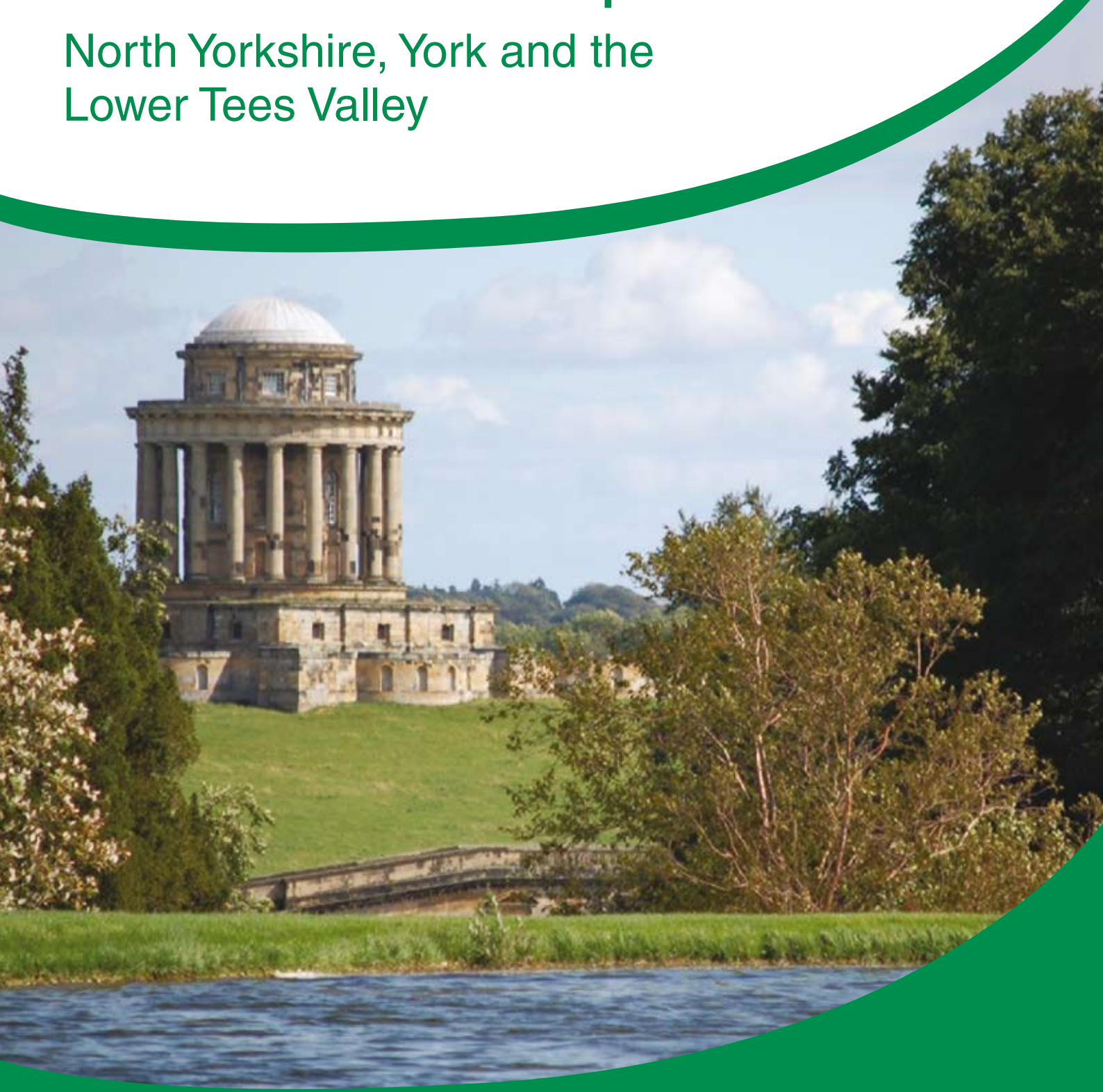
North Yorkshire County Council

Historic landscape character

North Yorkshire, York and the Lower Tees Valley



Business and Environmental Services

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The North Yorkshire & Lower Tees Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation

Final Report

December 2010

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Historic Environment Team

Countryside Service

Economic and Rural Services

North Yorkshire County Council

County Hall

Northallerton

DL7 8AH

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Front Cover: View of Castle Howard Mausoleum (L Bassindale, NYCC)

The North Yorkshire & Lower Tees Valley

Historic Landscape Characterisation

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Errata

Figure 14, p 36, Figures 15 & 16, p39, Figure 18, p42, Figure 72, p125, Figure 86, p133 and Figure 174, p193.

Spelling should read "Middlesbrough".

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Summary

Between 2005 and 2010, North Yorkshire County Council, with extensive partnership support from English Heritage, North York Moors National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, City of York Council and Tees Archaeology, undertook an Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for North Yorkshire and the Lower Tees Valley. The aim of this project was to use the methodology of Historic Landscape Characterisation to gain a better understanding of the historic dimension of the current landscape within the project area.

The project began by characterising four pilot areas (Filey, South of Selby, Vale of Mowbray, Middlesbrough and Great Ayton) to develop and finalise the methodology that would be employed. The characterisation process involved identifying an area of the landscape where the historic character was shared and defining the extent of that i.e. where it changed to another historic character. For example, with enclosed land an area of fields defined by straight boundaries may be defined as having shared historic character distinct from an area of enclosed strip fields with reverse 'S'-shaped curved boundaries that is adjacent.

The highest level of classification used is the broad type. This includes such categories as 'Enclosed Land', 'Settlement' and 'Industrial' broad types. The broad yypes allow the North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley HLC to be compared to other projects nationally. Below each broad type there are a number of HLC character types, for example 'Planned Large Scale Parliamentary Enclosure', 'Intake' and 'Piecemeal Enclosure' types. These HLC character types are created to refer to the specific historic character of the project area. The decision about which HLC character type to use is based upon the attributes; up to eight attached to each record. These add a further dimension to each record, allowing the database, and the historic character of the landscape, to be interrogated in a variety of ways.

The project utilised the HLC module within HBSMR software developed by Exegesis Spatial Data Management Ltd. This is a bespoke piece of software that uses, in the case of North Yorkshire County Council, Microsoft Access and MapInfo Professional GIS software[1] to manage the data of the Historic Environment Record. This allowed the project to use comprehensive text fields enabling the HLC project officers to record more detailed information. The HLC digitises the landscape at a scale of 1:10000 with a lowest digitising area threshold of two hectares.

In the Lower Tees Valley, a slightly different approach was adopted to pick up the detail of the urban areas. This was possible due to the contribution of officer time by Tees Archaeology. In other settlement areas, a broader approach was used, which involved defining the historic town core based on the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63).

In total, the project has created 15461 descriptive records in the database, with associated polygons in the GIS, providing an added dimension to our understanding of the historic landscape within the project area.

North Yorkshire and the Lower Tees Valley is a complex landscape with a variety of environments both in terms of the physical topography and the land management

[1] http://www.pbinsight.eu/uk/products/location-intelligence/mapinfo-professional/mapinfo-professional/index.html

employed. There are two National Parks, two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the City of York with an extensive time depth to these landscapes. When taken into account with the urban areas of the Lower Tees Valley, there is a high degree of variation in the historic character, and the legibility of that historic character.

The aim of this report is not to present all the evidence collected within the project, for that is the purpose of the database and GIS records, but to demonstrate the types of analysis which can be carried out with the HLC data. This is illustrated in several ways, firstly by exploring the broad types and highlighting some of the trends in the HLC character types. The report then moves on to look at broad trends that can be seen for each local authority area within the overall project area.

One of the important aspects of HLC is how it can relate detailed information on the historic character of the landscape to the broader national character areas defined by Natural England. This report analyses the HLC for three national character areas: the Vale of Pickering, the Humberhead Levels and the Sothern Magnesian Limestone.

The final section of the project carries out a rapid study of the parish of Scrayingham to show how HLC can enhance our understanding at a local scale.

Acknowledgements

The North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project was carried out between April 2005 and March 2010 by staff from the Historic Environment Team, North Yorkshire County Council, with Tees Archaeology undertaking characterisation of urban areas within the Lower Tees Valley. The results form part of the Historic Environment Records/Sites and Monuments Records of the five partner authorities involved. This report has been prepared by Stephen Toase, Historic Landscape Characterisation Project Officer, Historic Environment Team, North Yorkshire County Council.

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The project has drawn on the methodologies established in previous HLC projects. Particular thanks must go to Dan Ratcliffe, Andy Lines and Jennifer Marchant from

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During the set-up phase of the project, various specialists were invited to input into the terminology which would be utilised in the database. Thanks go to Val Hepworth of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, as well as Martin Roe and Mike Gill of the Northern Mine Research Society. Thanks are also extended to the Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service for provision of HLC data from the Lancashire HLC project, which included the Craven area of North Yorkshire, outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

1. Introduction to the project

1.1 The North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

The North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project was begun in April 2005 and the digitisation completed in January 2010. The project area encompasses the whole of North Yorkshire as well as the Lower Tees Valley, a total area of over 891,100 hectares. This covers a number of local authority areas: the county of North Yorkshire, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority[2], the North York Moors National Park Authority, the City of York and the unitary authority boroughs of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees. Also included are the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and that part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that lies within North Yorkshire (see Figures 1, 2 and 3). This means there is an exceptional variety in the character of the landscape, in terms of the topography as well as the historic and natural environment.

The project steering group comprised representatives of all the above local authorities (with Tees Archaeology representing the unitary authority boroughs of the Lower Tees Valley) and English Heritage, who sponsored the project as part of their national programme of Historic Landscape Characterisation.

The project was carried out by an Historic Landscape Characterisation Project Officer employed by North Yorkshire County Council for the duration of the project, and an Historic Landscape Characterisation Project Assistant for the final twenty months of the project. Additional support was provided by Tees Archaeology, who undertook the characterisation of the urban settlement areas of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Billingham.

The project has been a five year undertaking to gain a better understanding of the surviving historic character of the modern landscape, recognising that this historic character is the product of landscape changes over many centuries. Such information and understanding has a variety of applications and can be used to inform landscape management, landscape character assessment and strategies, spatial planning, and learning and outreach[3].

The main product of the project has been the creation of a body of data identifying, mapping and characterising the distinctive historic dimension of the present urban and rural environment of the North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley area. This is a comprehensive product in database and geographic information system (GIS) format, created using a number of sources of information, including digital historic maps and aerial photographs. Having identified aspects of the natural and built environment that have been shaped by human activity in the past, attributes have been grouped together using a classification of broad character types, which in turn have been subdivided into more detailed HLC types of current and previous historic character.

[2] Excluding that part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park that lies within Cumbria. This had been covered by Miles Johnson as part of the Cumbria HLC project and data for this area is held within the YDNPA HER and by Cumbria County Council.
[3] Clark, Darlington and Fairclough 2004

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Figure 1 *Area covered by the North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley HLC project (in grey) in relation to the UK*

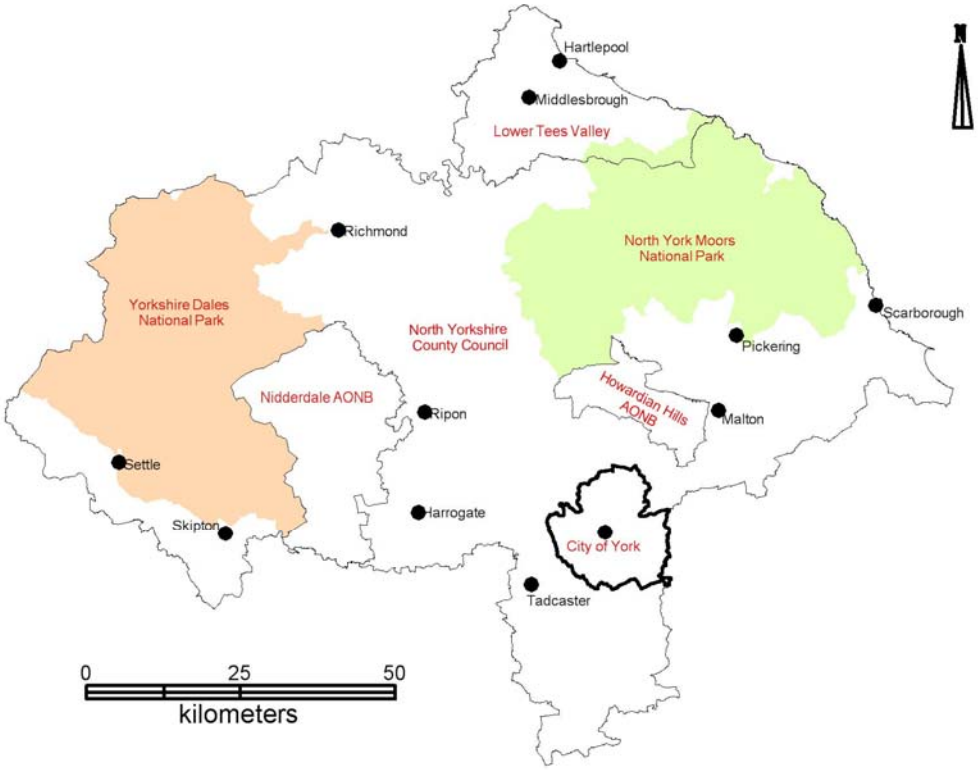

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Figure 2 *North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley HLC project area showing local authorities, AONBs and main settlements*

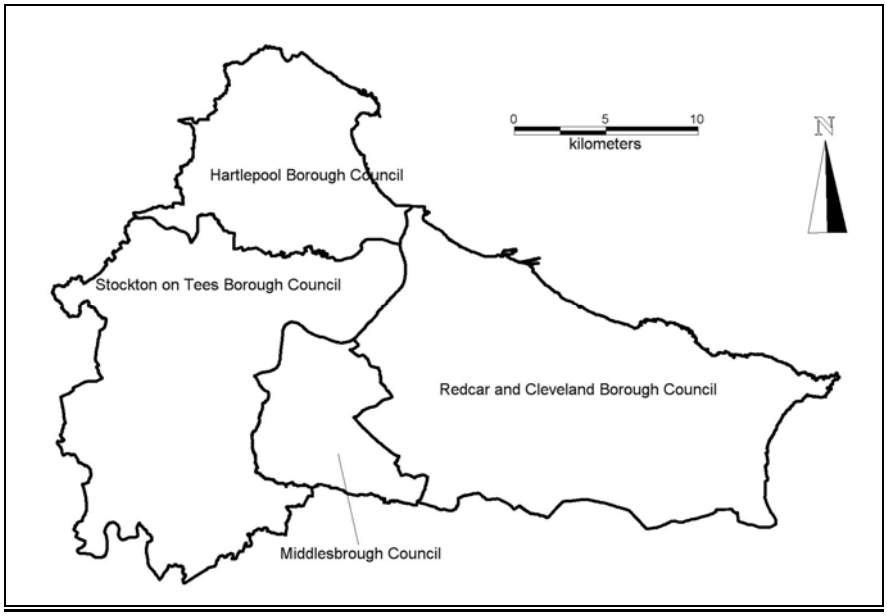

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Figure 3 The unitary authorities of the Lower Tees Valley

Particular patterns or groupings of areas of similar current historic character have been mapped as GIS polygons with linked database descriptions. Additional details about the project methodology and sources of information used can be found in Section 3.

1.2 Scope of the North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley Characterisation Project Report

As mentioned above, the main products of the project are the digital data in database and GIS format. The amount of data collected on historic landscape character for the project area, and as a result the physical character of the landscape, is vast. The total number of HLC types recorded within the project itself totals 205, although some occur only once. The total number of records in the database is 15461. Digital data has been disseminated to each of the project partners and is held within the respective local authority Historic Environment Records (formerly known as Sites and Monuments Records).

Whilst the historic characterisation and mapping has covered every part of the project area, this report does not aim to identify and describe every aspect of this information, for this will be found in the database and GIS data. The Historic Landscape Characterisation database can be queried in an almost endless amount of ways. The report does not aim to produce a definitive account of the historic landscape character of North Yorkshire and the Lower Tees Valley landscapes, rather it is to demonstrate the ways in which the data can be interrogated and explore some of the broad trends that emerge.

Section 4 of this report will explore each broad character type, exploring distribution, survival and form. Chart 1 provides a broad overview of the total percentage of each broad type within the project area. Each broad type is discussed with a brief summary of the main HLC character types. In some cases, for example planned

enclosure, the results for a number of HLC character types are presented together, to allow more meaningful analysis to be carried out.

To show how this data can be used at a more focussed level, Section 5 of the report will use the HLC data to examine the historic landscape character of each of the partner areas: the two National Parks, the City of York, Lower Tees Valley and the North Yorkshire HER area, drawing out the broad trends that are visible within these contrasting landscapes. A similar approach has been applied to three of the National Character Areas which fall within the project area, and the two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Howardian Hills and Nidderdale.

To show the flexibility of use of HLC data at different scales and for different purposes, the report also looks at a specific parish, Scrayingham, to show how HLC can inform our understanding of the historic character of a modern parish landscape. A specific estate, that of Birdsall, is also studied, which formed one of the earliest areas to be characterised within the project in 2005 and was used subsequently to inform the development of a farm environment plan.

1.3 General introduction to Historic Landscape Characterisation

Characterisation is an important tool which allows us to expand our view away from individual monuments and buildings to gain an understanding of the wider historic landscape. As an approach, characterisation has its origins in the 1960s, and the concept of 'character' outlined in the 1967 Conservation Area legislation[4]. Other influences include Landscape Character Assessment[5] and the English Heritage Historic Landscape Project carried out between 1992 and 1994[6]. Following the highlighting of characterisation in both Planning Policy Guidance note 7 on 'The Countryside - Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development'[7] and Planning Policy Guidance note 15 on 'Planning and the Historic Environment'[8], it was used as an approach in the Countryside Character Map, produced jointly by the Countryside Commission, English Heritage and English Nature[9].

The methodology for Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) was pioneered in Cornwall[10], following an invitation from the Government for English Heritage to produce a list of special historic landscapes. It was felt that as the whole landscape is the product of human, historic activity a methodology was needed which encompassed the historic environment in its broadest sense. A number of methodologies were trialled before HLC was decided on as an approach.

Before HLC, no method existed for assessing the historic character for the whole landscape. Many of the studies that existed at the time, carried out on a local basis, were excellent but focussed in on particular areas. HLC differs in that it takes an holistic approach to the landscape, allowing it to be assessed on its own terms, including the typical and commonplace rather than just perceived 'high value' areas.

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[4] HMSO 1967
[5] Swanwick and Land Use Consultants 2002
[6] Fairclough *et al* 1999
[7] DoE 1997
[8] DoE 1994
[9] Countryside Commission and English Nature 1996
[10] Herring 1998

At its heart, HLC has nine guiding principles:[11]

- Present not past
- Landscape not sites
- All aspects of the landscape
- Human landscape - biodiversity is a cultural phenomenon
- Interpretation not record, perception not facts
- People's views
- Management of change, not preservation
- Transparency
- Jargon free, easily accessible
- Integration

HLC projects are carried out, in the main, by local authorities in partnership with English Heritage. This has meant that there has been flexibility to the methodology allowing it to be adaptable to local character. At the time of writing, nearly 90% of the historic characterisation of England has either been completed or is underway[12].

On the 1st March 2007 the European Landscape Convention came into force, following ratification on the 21st November 2006[13]. HLC is fully compliant with the aims and aspirations of the Convention.

1.4 Previous Landscape Character Assessment in the Project Area

Prior to, and during the life of, the North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley HLC project, a number of landscape character assessments have been undertaken for areas which fall within the project area. The earliest of these date to the early 1990s, and the most recent is a landscape character assessment for North Yorkshire undertaken in 2009/10[14]. Details can be found in the online Landscape Character Network 'Database of Landscape Character Assessments in England'[15].

Within the Lower Tees Valley, there has been landscape character assessment or landscape assessment for Redcar and Cleveland[16], the Cleveland Community Forest[17] and Hartlepool[18]. Within the City of York there has been a landscape appraisal[19]. There has been a landscape character assessment of the Yorkshire Dales National Park[20], and North York Moors National Park[21], as well as for a North York Moors Upland Land Management Initiative[22] and the CAN DO Hambleton and Howardian Hills Landscape Partnership Area[23]. The Howardian Hills Landscape has

[11] Clark, Darlington and Fairclough 2004
[12] http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/characterisation/historic-landscape-character/
[13] Council of Europe 2000
[14] Chris Blandford Associates forthcoming
[15] http://landscapecharacter.org.uk/db/index.html
[16] Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council 2006
[17] Cleveland Community Forest 1992
[18] Hartlepool Borough Council 2000
[19] City of York Council 1996
[20] Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority 2001
[21] White Young Green 2003
[22] North York Moors National Park Authority 2000
[23] The Hambleton and Howardian Hills CAN DO Partnership in association with the North York Moors National Park Authority 2007

also been assessed by the Countryside Commission[24], and elsewhere in North Yorkshire, there have been landscape assessments for Northern Ryedale[25], Selby District[26], Scarborough Borough[27], Harrogate Borough[28] and Hambleton District[29]. Part of Craven District was covered by a landscape character assessment for Lancashire commissioned in 1999[30] and the area of Craven outside the National Park studied in 2002[31]. More recently, landscape character assessment has been carried out for the Forest of Bowland AONB[32].

Currently in production is the 'North Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment' which North Yorkshire County Council commissioned Chris Blandford Associates to produce in late 2009[33]. This work has been informed by the full HLC digital dataset.

1.5 The National Character Areas[34]

The HLC project area covers fifteen national character areas, see Figure 4. These give us an insight into the broad character of the landscape, and each national character area has been defined taking the cultural aspects of the landscape into consideration.

The definition of the national character areas used a methodology developed from a pilot in the South West, which was subsequently rolled out nationally. This utilised twelve national datasets, seven of which are explicitly concerned with the historic landscape: farm types, settlement patterns, woodland cover, field density and pattern, visible archaeology, industrial history and designed parkland.

These datasets were combined using a system of statistical analysis to provide an overview of the character. Each square kilometre in the country was assigned an attribute for each dataset. The process then worked on the principle "…that all the kilometre squares in the sample (the whole of England) can be divided up into a number of groups on the basis of the presence or absence of a particular attribute. This subdivision continues until an appropriate number of end groups are reached, each of which will contain kilometre squares with similar attributes. The map which resulted from this then informed the definition of character areas[35]."

[24] Countryside Commission 1995
[25] Gillespies 1999
[26] Woolerton Dodwell Associates 1999
[27] Scarborough Borough Council 1994
[28] Harrogate Borough Council 2004
[29] Hambleton District Council 1991
[30] Environmental Resources Management 2000
[31] Landscape Design Associates 2002
[32] Lancashire County Council 2009
[33] Chris Blandford Associates forthcoming
[34] Countryside Commission 2005 and http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/englands/character/areas/default.aspx
[35] Countryside Commission 1998, 8-9

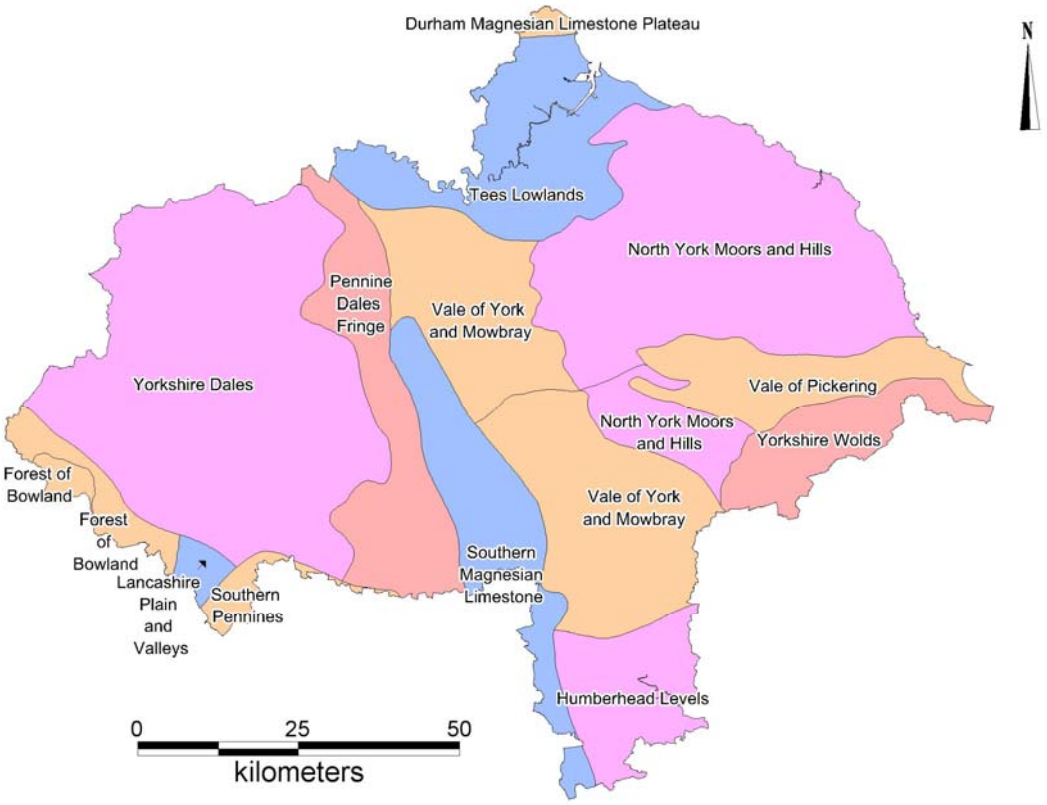

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Figure 4 National character areas within the HLC project area

1.6 Applications of HLC

HLC has many different applications within the management of the historic environment. A key application is to address the need to build a landscape-based approach into our understanding of the historic environment. As communities, both now and in the past, engaged with the landscape and each other, they have a wider impact than can be expressed purely by the study of monuments. Over the past twenty years, the heritage community has become increasingly aware of a need to develop a landscape-based approach. This can take many forms, and has many tools at its disposal; for example aerial survey, topographic survey, rapid field survey, map regression and documentary evidence. All of these techniques add a different body of information to the way the historic landscape can be assessed. HLC provides a further approach to contribute to, and enhance, these other methods.

Due to its broad-brush approach, the use of HLC information allows a rapid assessment to be made of the historic character of landscapes to inform decision making and planning at a strategic level. Whilst it would be desirable for rapid field survey, at the very least, to be carried out for as much of the historic landscape as possible, this is an enormous task. To survey the whole of the area covered by the North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley HLC project on foot, working on the basis of coverage of approximately 1 hectare per half a day, it would take approximately 2,225 years to complete. What HLC can do, is provide a starting point, a framework for more detailed work to be undertaken thereafter.

HLC takes a comprehensive approach to the landscape, considering all aspects as contributing to the historic character. This means that the information collected is especially well placed to inform positive landscape management[36]. The compilation and maintenance of HLC data in a GIS system allows a large amount of complex and in depth information to be provided rapidly for a variety of landscape management outputs.

Within local government, the historic environment services provided by the local authorities who are partners in this HLC project regularly provide historic environment data and advice to inform a wide range of schemes, from those requiring planning permission to those concerning land management, and those for which grants are available through national agencies, such as Natural England and Defra.

The availability of HLC data to be included in the information provided to inform agri-environment schemes, for example farm environment plans as part of higher level stewardship[37], can enhance the scope, depth and understanding of the historic environment within a particular land holding. In the same way, the holistic approach which HLC embodies means that it has a particular role to play in the management of woodland, and the allocation of English woodland grant schemes[38]. As will be shown later in the report, the woodlands identified during the project are a product of human activity whether through passive or active management.

Due to the scale at which HLC is carried out, it sits neatly between different levels of landscape assessment. It can inform and enhance landscape character assessment at different scales, from county-wide approaches, such as the North Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment[39], to district-wide approaches to support the evidence base for local development frameworks, such as the special qualities study of Ryedale's market towns[40].

Other applications of HLC include its role in informing spatial planning and strategies, including for example, strategic environment assessments and sustainability appraisals and minerals and waste development frameworks, as well as area management plans, such as those for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty[41]. All this work can be underpinned by the information provided from the HLC project, enabling the historic environment to be considered from a landscape perspective.

HLC provides an excellent opportunity to develop partnerships, both internally and with external partners. Because the data collected is inclusive, in terms of geographical extent and time depth, it provides a mechanism to start dialogue with many different groups. Because HLC data records aspects of the natural environment, for example in terms of boundary type, woodland character and unenclosed land ground cover, it provides a mechanism to develop close working between natural environment and historic environment colleagues. HLC can inform the creation of green corridors to ensure that they enhance and respect the historic character of the landscape.

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[36] Clark, Darlington and Fairclough 2004; 13
[37] http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/hls/default.aspx
[38] http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs
[39] Chris Blandford Associates forthcoming
[40] Ryedale District Council 2010
[41] Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee 2009

In recent years, there has been a rise in interest in local distinctiveness, with organisations such as Common Ground engaging with communities to draw out these themes. HLC can, on a local level, provide a framework through which there can be a dialogue about local character and distinctiveness, complementing or enhancing the understanding of the historic landscape gained from the project.

The historic character of the landscape forms an important aspect of what attracts people to the region, which in turn feeds into the local economy. HLC can enhance our understanding of the historic character in these areas, for example the wider environs of the City of York Authority. It can also draw attention to the historic character of the wider landscape, promoting these as possible destinations.

2. Overview of the project area

2.1 Geology

This section provides a brief overview of the solid and drift geology, together with their dominant industries which have had an impact on the landscape. Solid and drift geology maps are reproduced in Figures 5a and 6.

Solid geology[42]

The extraction of lead, and sometimes copper, from the Carboniferous limestones of the Pennines from the Medieval period onwards heavily modified the landscape. In some areas they are interbedded with sandstones which contain narrow beds of coal which was also extracted. These hard limestones have also been extensively quarried for buildings and the characteristic dry stone walls of the Dales for many centuries whereas the soft Permian-period Magnesian limestone which runs north-south through the county is an important modern quarry product used crushed for construction and other purposes. Calcareous springs in this strip led to the creation of the spa towns at Harrogate and Ripon in the 18th century. The complex lower and middle Jurassic strata of the North York Moors yield a variety of uses, including Whitby jet utilised for jewellery, an iron industry from the late prehistoric period to the 19th century, coal mining (also in the Howardian Hills) and finally alum and cement working on the eastern and northern fringes. It is used as a building stone which gives the houses and farm buildings of the area their soft creamy colour. Wold chalk, although very soft, is easily cut and was used as a domestic and farm building stone usually with brick corners, window and door surrounds. Small farm quarries are very common; there was an industrial chalk quarry and limekilns near Wharram station.

Drift geology

The topography of the study area is best understood in relation to its glacial history, the last glaciation being so severe it wiped out most of the earlier deposits[43] except in some caves at the southern edge of what became the Yorkshire Dales. Ice came into the area from upper Teesdale and the Cheviots, sweeping south past the hard rocks of the uplands, one arm moving through the Vales of Mowbray and York, the other down the Tees Valley and skirting east of the North York Moors; thus the central area of lowland and the sharp cliffs of the coast were created, whilst incursions inland created the Vale of Pickering, Esk Valley and Robin Hoods Bay[44].

Glacial till or boulder clay was deposited by the ice on much of the lower ground and shows the limits of the ice sheet against the harder rocks of the uplands. It created the undulating topography in parts of the Vale of York seen today and terminal moraines marking the retreat of the ice-blocked valleys creating lake-flats in many of the Pennine dales[45]. Ice had a scouring effect too, deepening and widening valleys in Littondale, upper Swaledale and elsewhere in the Pennines where it bared the limestone, creating pavements of bare rock and removing any signs of earlier human activity.

[42] Taylor 2003, 8-10
[43] Atkinson 2003, 10
[44] Atkinson 2003, 11
[45] Atkinson 2003, 12

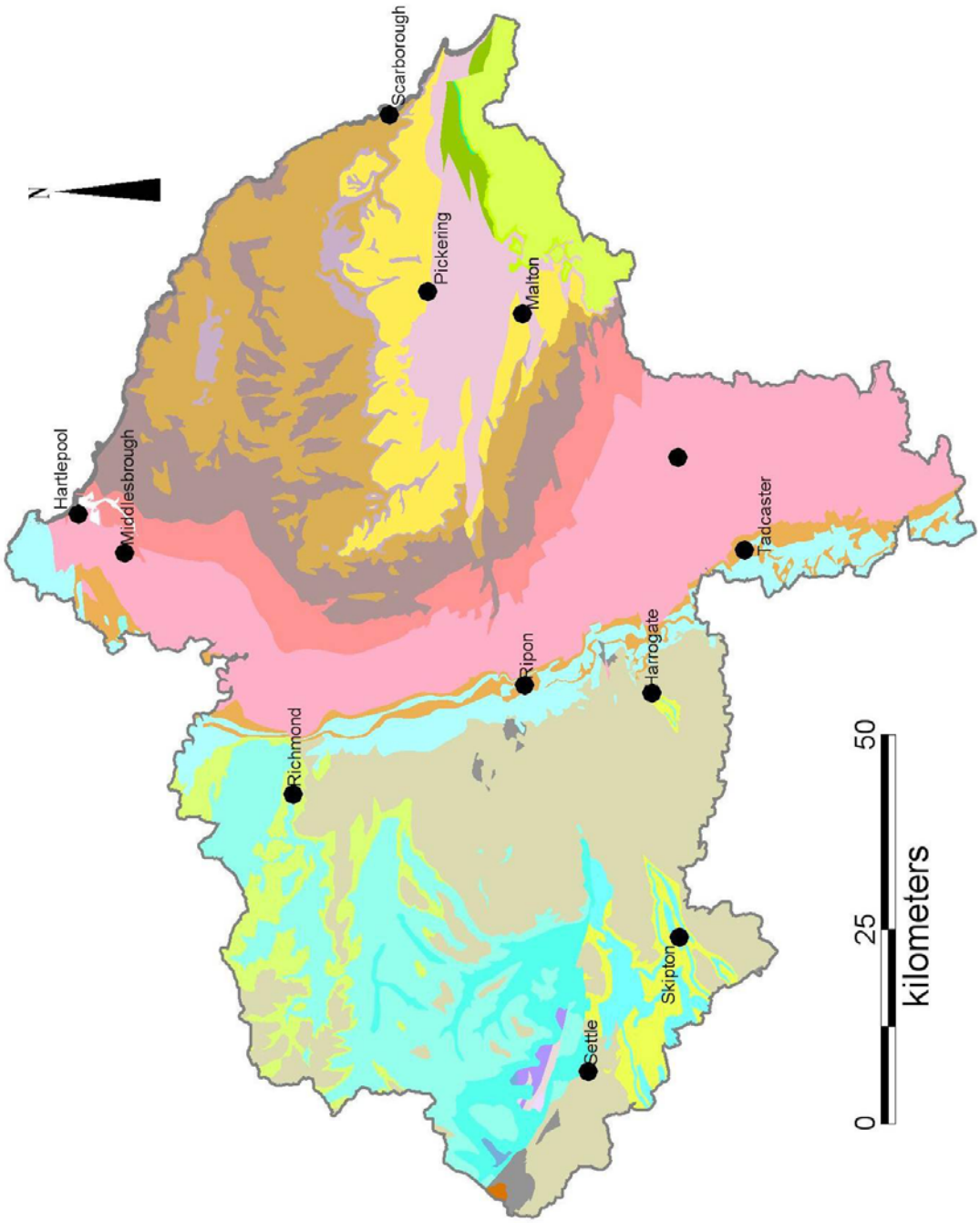

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Figure 5a Solid geology within the HLC project area (see Figure 5b for key)

Figure 5b Key to solid geology map in Figure 5a

Modern exploitation of drift geology has impacted upon the landscape, for example the large-scale sand and gravel extraction in the Vale of Mowbray. The glacial till has been quarried for building stones in the area for hundreds of years, many buildings and walls or wall footings showing large cobbles of mixed material. In contrast, the impact of centuries of peat cutting for domestic and industrial (lead smelting) fuel in the uplands and Vale of Pickering are as yet only poorly mapped and even less understood.

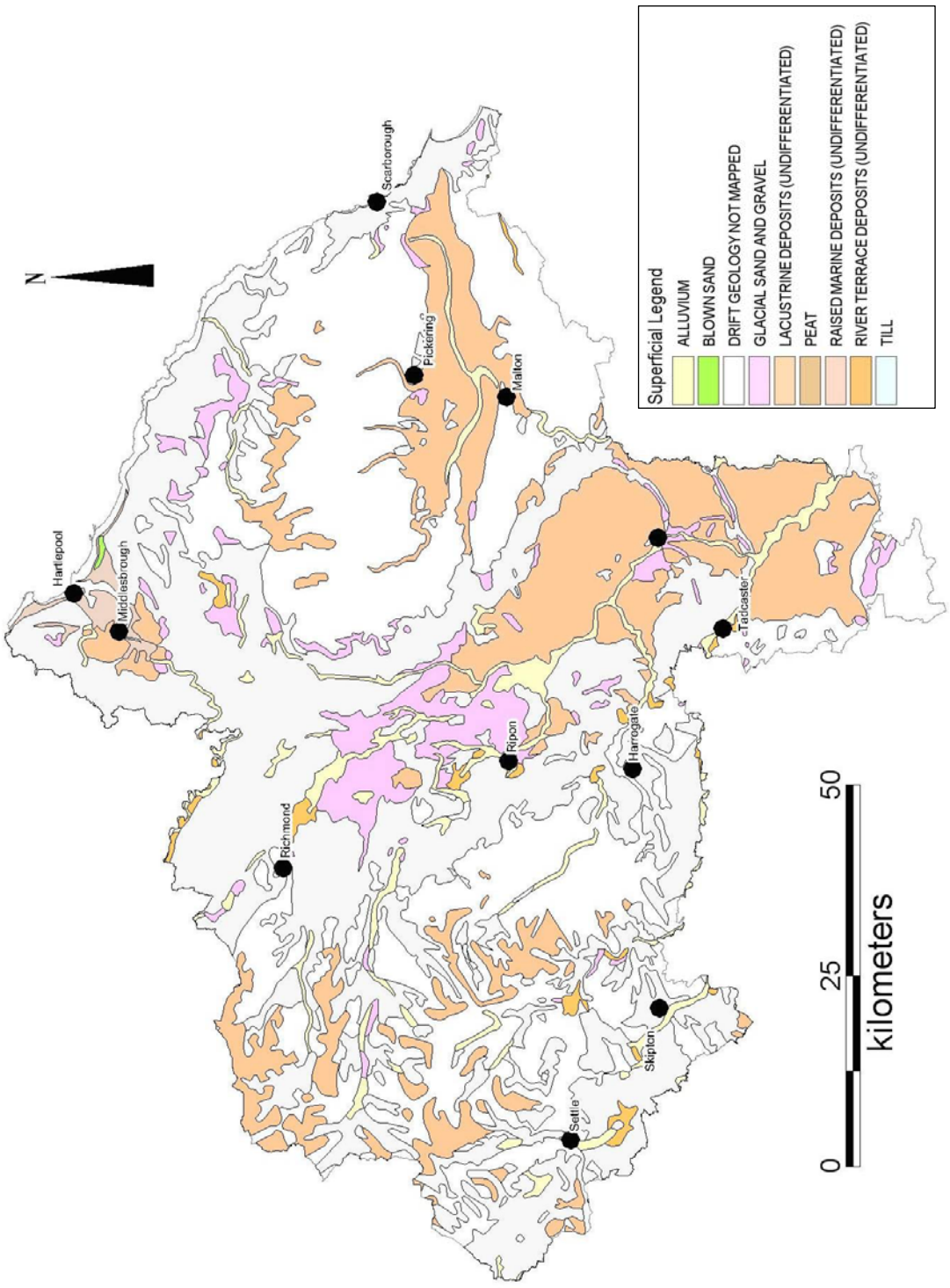

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Figure 6 Drift geology within the HLC project area

2.2 Topography

The width of the project area covers 93 miles (150km) from east to west, stretching almost from coast to coast from Scarborough and Filey on the east coast to just beyond Settle in the west, less than 12 miles (18km) from the west coast at Morecambe Bay. From north to south, the area extends for 76 miles (122km) from north of Hartlepool to below Tadcaster, just below the M62 motorway in the south. Given these dimensions, it is not surprising that the topography of the area is highly varied, being a product of geology and geological processes, creating here a series of well-known rich and varied landscapes, from the rugged coast of the North York Moors on the east to the Selby lowlands in the south, see Figure 7. Two main areas of upland draw the eye, the Pennine chain in the west dominated by the limestone Three Peaks of Whernside (736m), Pen-y-Ghent (694m) and Ingleborough (723m) in the south and Rogan's Seat (672m) and Angram Common (716m) further north. The North York Moors massif is lower, achieving a maximum height of 454m on Cockayne Ridge and 433m on Westerdale Moor but with notable outliers of the Eston and Upleatham Hills (183m and 179m respectively) between Guisborough and the Tees estuary and the Howardian Hills with 172m on Yearsley Moor. Frequently unnoticed as an upland block are the Yorkshire Wolds which reach 220m at Wharram Percy Farm.

Some areas are sharply defined by scarp slopes, such as the northern edges of the North York Moors and Wolds and the dramatic rise of the Carboniferous limestone on the south side of the Dales but elsewhere the hills fall more gently down to the broad lowlands where the many rivers running off the uplands and down valleys slow down and deposit their load in the shallow north-south lowland created by the ice. Two estuaries, the Tees and the Esk, outfall on the coast. There is no estuary at the eastern end of the Vale of Pickering because it is blocked by a moraine, forcing the river systems to flow inland. South of York, the Humberhead Levels create a broad low-lying area with low topography and often wet soils.

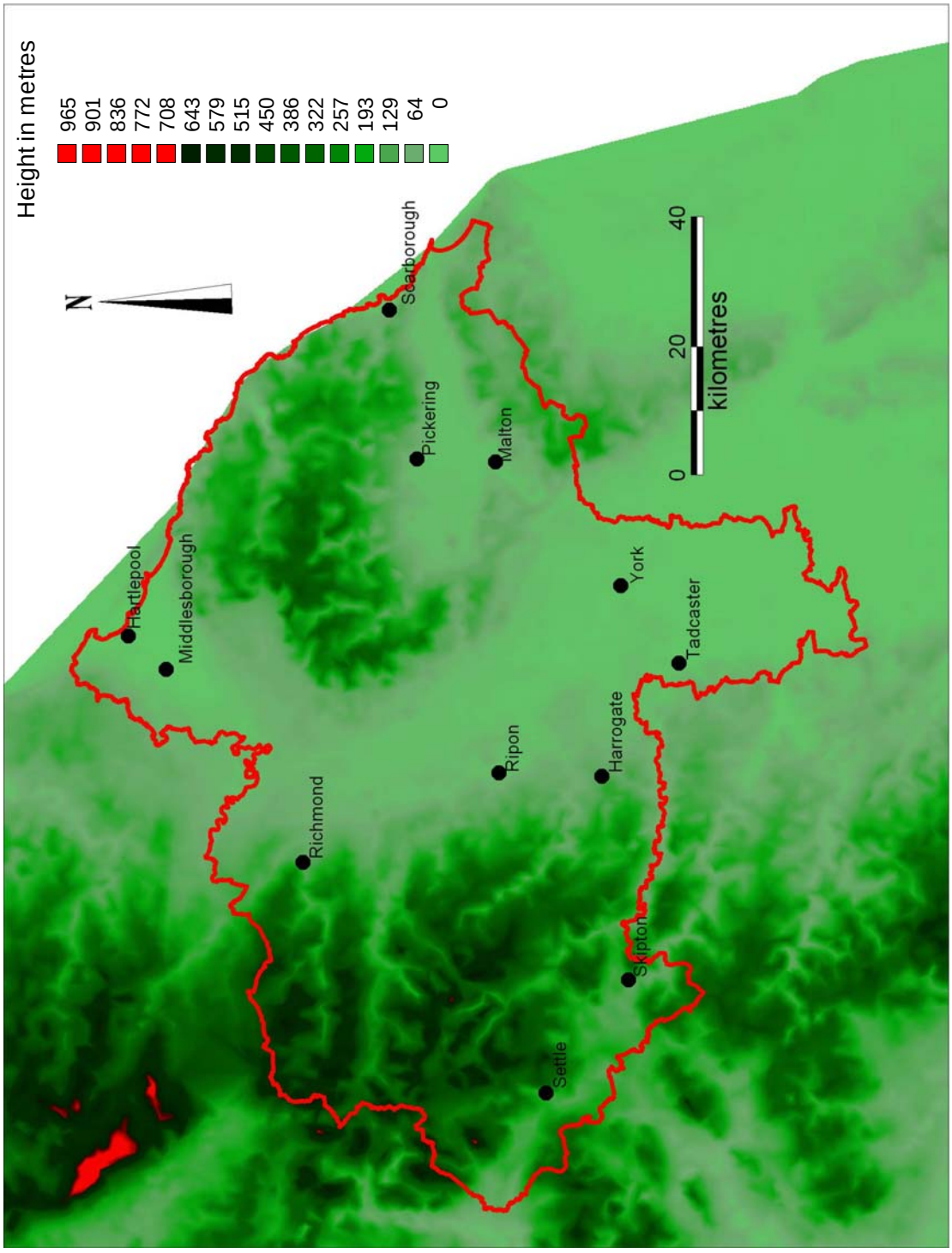

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Figure 7 Topography of the HLC project area (outlined in red)

2.3 Thematic overview of the Historic Environment of the Project Area

An area with the size and geographical complexity of North Yorkshire and the Lower Tees Valley does not lend itself easily to a summary overview, which inevitably leaves out more than it could ever include. However, it is felt important to provide some sort of assessment for the user and so a thematic approach has been taken, covering the themes of settlement, religion and ceremony, communication, industry, defence and agriculture, with examples from all periods spread throughout the project area. The emphasis is on elements visible in the current landscape, reflecting human activity for over 5,000 years.

Settlement

Prehistoric activity, generally, is not difficult to find but upstanding settlement is rare and tends to be most obvious on the thin limestone soils of Craven, for example the hut circles on Malham Moor[46], although other sites do exist for example the Bronze Age enclosure on Westerdale Moor, Castleton[47]. One of the most visible prehistoric settlements is the late Iron Age site at Stanwick, north of Scotch Corner, where large earthwork embankments encircled an oppidum or proto-town and have been incorporated into later park and field boundaries[48].

Scarborough possibly has the earliest origins of any extant town in the area, developing from a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age promontory fort[49] closely followed by a Roman signal station, both making use of the natural promontory. However these do not constitute major settlement whereas Roman York, which was founded around AD 71, developed into an important legionary fortress and civilian settlement[50].

The towns of York, Hartlepool and Whitby have important Saxon monastic settlements which possibly included control of markets and/or maritime trade at river mouths or crossings[51].

Small market towns tend to be situated in the rural lowlands/upland fringe except where river valleys contained settlements and communication routes as at Hawes in upper Wensleydale, Reeth in Swaledale and Egton in Eskdale[52]. Whitby and Hartlepool were positioned differently, being on the coast, and they had the multiple benefits of monastic settlement, market and port. Many other market towns began life as Saxon settlements but may have been remodelled in the 12th century with broad main streets to accommodate markets as at Yarm and Stockton and Northallerton whereas Thirsk, Richmond and Skipton were influenced in their plans by the development or insertion of a castle. Harrogate had a late start, developing from a scattered collection of hamlets into a well-established spa town by the end of the 18th century[53].

[46] White 1997, 27 and fig 15
[47] Crosthwaite 1986, 29
[48] Wheeler 1954
[49] Pearson 2005, 2
[50] Butler *ed*. 1971
[51] Petts and Gerrard 2006, 65
[52] Daniell 2003, 103
[53] Morrison 2003, 203

The largest settlements today are in the Tees estuary industrial conurbation from Hartlepool to Redcar, whilst York, Harrogate and Scarborough continue to flourish as modern business and commercial centres.

Religion and ceremony

Throughout the project area are many good stone sources but perhaps curiously there is very little in the megalithic tradition that elsewhere typifies prehistoric ceremonial and funerary sites. Exceptions include the Devil's Arrows standing stones at Boroughbridge, stone circle(s) at the High Bride Stones on Sleights Moor and the Yockenthwaite stone circle in Littondale. Stone was used for rock art which tends to be found in specific areas where suitable rock types are found, such as the lower Wharfe valley (millstone grit), Fylingdales Moor (Jurassic sandstone)[54] and on Feldom Ranges above Richmond. For large ceremonial monuments earthen features banks with stony fills were often used for henges, as at Thornborough east of Masham, Castle Dykes near Aysgarth and Yarnbury[55] near Grassington.

Most evident in this theme are the medieval and post-medieval parish churches, especially in rural areas where they are most visible, towering above the village often in an elevated position as at Pateley Bridge or set apart as at Great Ouseburn. Selby and Whitby abbeys, Ripon, St Hilda's at Hartlepool and York Minster form notable landmarks, some with their origins as Saxon minsters.

Communication

In this area of well-defined topography, with high plateaux cut by rivers and broad lowland valleys in between, communication routes in the pre-modern era were determined by the availability of river crossings, condition of flood plains and density of wood and scrub. Prehistoric routes can be seen in some co-axial field systems in the Dales[56] and from the air as cropmarks in many parts of the project area. A number of Roman roads have been recorded in the study area (see Figures 8 and 9). The present A1(M) road through North Yorkshire follows the course of Roman Dere Street for much of its length, an important part of military infrastructure to aid the movement of troops north to Hadrian's Wall[57].

The Great North Road (actually a series of trade routes) has long been a major north-south communication route linking the south of England with Scotland. East-west routes were also important for transporting goods to and from the coastal ports of the Tees, Whitby and Scarborough, the river at York (with connections to the road system) and bringing wool and lead from the Pennines and alum and ironstone from the North York Moors. Drove roads and pack horse routes such as the paved trod or medieval pannier way on Lealholm Rigg, North York Moors are relatively rare survivals in unforgiving territory, sometimes with wayside crosses as markers[58].

The great Cistercian monasteries created an extensive network of trackways to connect the abbeys with their granges and lands and to transport goods from the uplands down to the mother house on lower ground. The most extensive series of

[54] Brown and Chappell 2005, 32
[55] http://www.outofoblivion.org.uk/record.asp?id=518
[56] http://www.outofoblivion.org.uk/roads.asp
[57] Wilson 2003, 48
[58] Daniell 2003, 101-104

new roads were created from the mid 18th century onwards in the form of turnpikes which facilitated commerce between both manufacturing and market towns[59].

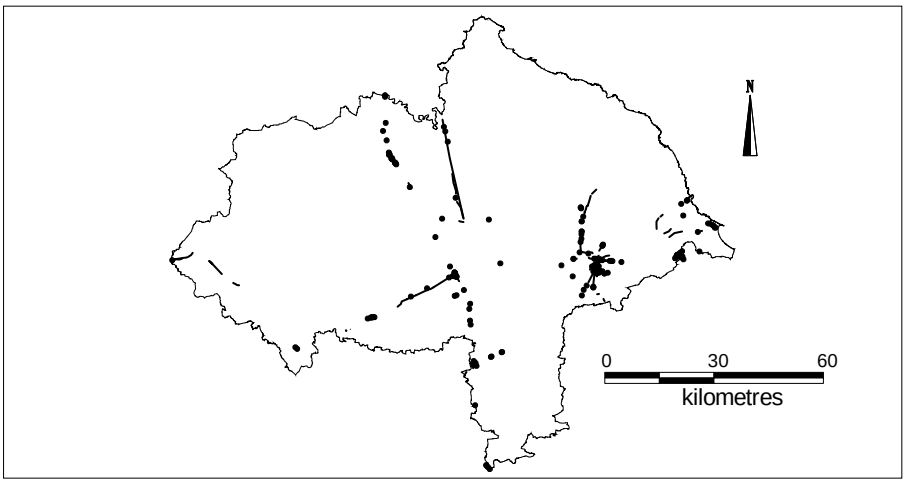

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Figure 8 Roman roads identified within the project area

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Figure 9 Probable course of the Roman road from Northallerton northwards to the Tees, seen in the field boundaries slightly to the east of the bright green line .

Canals followed and, together with rivers, were the best option for moving heavy goods until the creation of the railway network in the 19th century. From its beginnings at Stockton on Tees, the rail network grew to have considerable influence on the landscape ranging from major engineering works and the headquarters of the dominant North Eastern Railway in York to the tunnels and viaducts such as the

[59] Sheils 2003, 128-9

famous Ribblehead Viaduct on the Settle to Carlisle route[60]. Hundreds of miles of lines stretched across the countryside connecting rural areas, villages and towns and a whole architectural style was created in the building of stations, hotels, signal boxes and crossing-keepers houses.

Industry

The complex geology in the project area supported extractive industries for obtaining a variety of raw materials including lead, lime and coal from the eastern Pennines and ironstone, coal, alum and lime from the North York Moors and Eston Hills. Salt, lead and coal were probably exploited early, there are Roman lead ingots from near Pateley Bridge, otherwise our knowledge comes from documents from the great monastic houses at Fountains and Rievaulx which describe rentals and agreements for both lead and iron, industries whose importance continued for several hundred years as well as the surviving remains. In the post medieval period alum production dominated the north east part of the Moors and ironstone from there was taken to the Tees estuary foundries for production into finished goods[61].

Textiles became industrially important in the 18th and 19th centuries with manufacture impacting on the landscape as flax mills clustered on the western side of the North York Moors and wool, worsteds and cotton mills dominating the wetter south-west from Skipton to Ingleton[62].

Defence

Earliest visible defensive structures may be the late Bronze Age/Iron Age palisaded enclosures as at Eston Nab[63] in Redcar and Cleveland and Staple Howe in Ryedale, though whether built to defend against animals or people is uncertain. There are many Roman forts such as Elslack, the legionary fortress at York and later Roman signal stations on the coast which signify the strategic importance of the area.

Medieval castles abound due to Norman military consolidation (Knaresborough), Scottish raids (Northallerton), and royal building (Middleham)[64]. Some made big impacts on the landscape by influencing the development of the town as at Richmond or forcing considerable reorganisation of existing settlement as at Cawood and Helmsley.

The Second World War had a great impact on the area, when the Vale of York became virtually one huge landing strip with airfields every few miles[65]. The low-lying parts of the east coast are vulnerable to invasion and attack, prompting the creation of signal stations as early as the Roman period and measures such as Heugh Gun Battery at Hartlepool were installed in the 19th century but continued in use until 1944[66]. Catterick Camp has developed, since 1915 when troops first occupied it[67], to

[60] Sheils 2003, 132
[61] Lee and White 2003, 163-190
[62] Lawton 2003, 186-188
[63] http://www.teesarchaeology.com/new/eston_hills.html
[64] Matthieu 2003, 82-84
[65] Halpenny 1982, 7
[66] http://www.teesarchaeology.com/new/heugh_indepth.html
[67] http://www.richmond.org/guide/history.html

become the Army's base in the northern UK[68], with extensive ranges on the edge of Swaledale as well as built development with barracks and other buildings.

Agriculture

In North Yorkshire agriculture has been an important influence for over 5, 000 years and continues to be so today as the county remains predominantly rural. Much visible early farming is confined to the uplands where subsequent activity has not obliterated it, such as the co-axial field systems on Calverside Moor, Swaledale[69], Westerdale Moor[70] and Lofthouse (Nidderdale). Cropmark evidence reveals large areas of field systems in the lowlands but by it's nature does not contribute to the visible landscape character today. Best places for upstanding sites of this type in the lowland are the few remaining commons in the Humberhead Levels such as Skipwith Common to the south of York which also has post-medieval line pits for retting flax.

The medieval period is clearer, with fossilised strip fields at Middleton (Pickering), ridge and furrow fields such as at Stainsby[71] Middlesbrough, Poppleton Ings York and probably the piecemeal enclosure at Timble[72].

There are a large number of planned and model farmsteads in the old North Riding which has more dating from 1750-1790 than any other area[73], and consequently is likely to have had an impact on field patterns though research would be needed to establish if this is the case. A good example of this farm building type is at Birdsall Home Farm, with an early 19th century example at Demesne Farm Fylingdales and five planned farmsteads in Kirkleatham parish all built 1760-1770 with eighteenth century enclosures strongly visible around.

[68] Archaeological Services Durham University 2007, 2-3
[69] White 1997, 20-21
[70] Crosthwaite 1986, 29
[71] http://www.teesarchaeology.com/new/stainsby_indepth.html
[72] HLC record HNY1803
[73] Wade Martins 2002, 222

3. Methodology

3.1 Background

The North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) has been a five year project which aimed to study, record and analyse the historic character of the current landscape for five adjoining partner authority areas: North Yorkshire, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the North York Moors National Park, the Lower Tees Valley and the City of York. During the planning stages of the project, a pilot study was carried out by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, which looked at a 1km square area of Swaledale to test the methodology and used MasterMap Ordnance Survey mapping and MapInfo Professional GIS software.

3.2 Evolution of the HLC Project Methodology

The methodology used is based on the nationally-accepted approach, outlined by Aldred and Fairclough[74]. Following the appointment of the HLC Project Officer in April 2005, based with North Yorkshire County Council, it was decided to use the HLC and MapLink modules within the HBSMR database[75], software utilised by the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), to carry out the characterisation. This would have several advantages in that the HLC digital data would be fully integrated within the Historic Environment Records for North Yorkshire County Council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park, which also used the same software . Since 2008, the City of York Council has also used HBSMR to manage its historic environment data. The HBSMR software, utilising a Microsoft Access database and associated MapInfo Professional[76] GIS capability has allowed for data to be exported for use by the other project partners who are not using the software, for incorporation into their record systems and GIS. In addition, the HLC record form within HBSMR contains text fields which have the potential for a substantial amount of comment and critical analysis to be recorded, if necessary. HBSMR also allows the use of textual descriptions, rather than codes, to record the data.

At the beginning of the project, the HLC Project Officer held discussions with officers of the partner authorities and other HLC projects to discuss methodology, in particular the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation Project, in progress at that time. Whilst the South Yorkshire methodology differed slightly due to the high concentration of urban areas in that project area, HBSMR software was being used as a framework. This provided examples of how the forms would be set up, the scope of the software and the most efficient way of recording information, which heavily influenced the methodology for the North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley HLC project.

To establish the structure and terminology for more specialist Broad Types, such as Extractive and Designed Landscapes, the HLC Project Officer engaged in discussion with the Yorkshire Gardens Trust[77], as well as the Northern Mines Research Society[78]. This enabled a set of useful and appropriate terms to be developed for use

[74] Aldred and Fairclough 2003
[75] © exeGesIS SDM Ltd
[76] © Pitney Bowes Business Insight
[77] http://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/
[78] http://www.nmrs.org.uk/

in the project, which would be of relevance to future researchers. Details of these terms can be found in the technical user guide for the project[79].

Figure 10 provides a screenshot of the HLC module data entry form in the HBSMR software used by the project, which shows how textual descriptive information can be recorded in the database record for each HLC polygon[80].

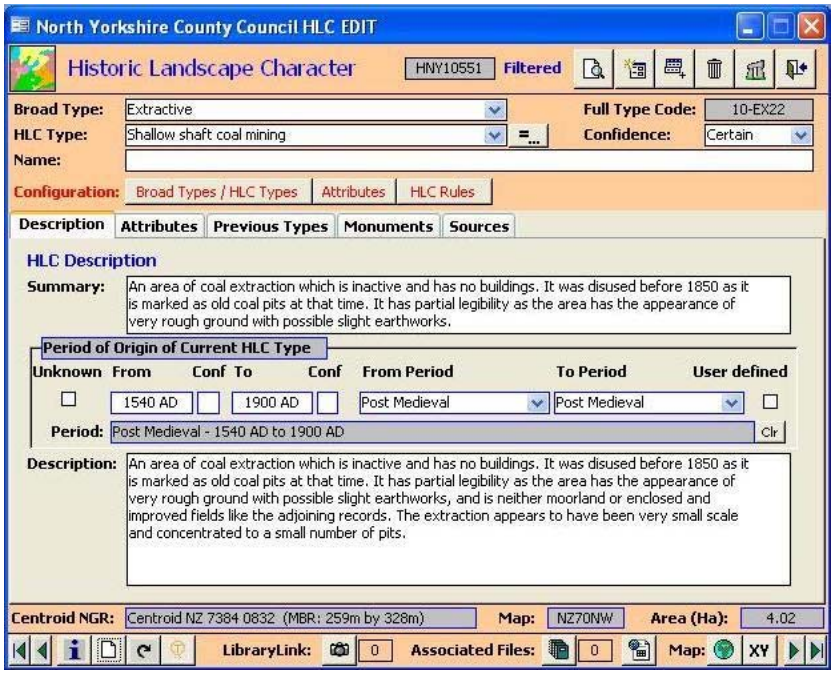

Figure 10 The HLC module data entry form in HBSMR software[81] used by the project

HBSMR utilises a Microsoft Access database which links records to a GIS vector polygon using the Maplink module[82].

Initially, during the pilot phase of the project, it was decided that there needed to be a lower cut off point for the size of polygon recording. This was initially set at one hectare with nothing below this size given its own record. Following several months of using this as the lower digitising limit it was decided that this was still not completely practical within the available time and resources. The lower digitising limit was thus set at two hectares. This was in line with the data acquired for the Ancient Woodland Inventory[83], and still provided a sufficiently fine grain to pick up the subtleties of historic character, while maintaining a broad-brush approach.

The information collected within the HLC project has a very specific hierarchy, from broad type, through HLC character type to specific attributes. The broadest

[79] Toase 2010
[80] exeGesIS SDM Ltd 2010, 106-115
[81] © exeGesIS SDM Ltd
[82] http://www.esdm.co.uk/hbsmr.asp
[83] http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/gis/gis_register.asp

classification is broad type; this sits at the top of the hierarchy and is common to, and interchangeable with, other HLC projects in the country. Below this are the HLC character types. For each broad type there will be a number of different HLC types which can be selected (see tables at start of each broad type description in Section 4). For example, under the broad type of 'enclosed land' an HLC type of 'strip fields', 'unknown planned enclosure' or 'intake' could be assigned (see Table 2). The attributes record the information which has been used to inform the HLC type[84].

The process of characterising an area involved the creation of a record in the database, and then identifying the extent of the polygon that needed to be drawn. This was done by establishing an area of similar character until interrupted by an area of different character. Where this can be identified during the digitising process, past historic character can also be recorded, enabling an understanding of the dynamic character of these areas. The database also allows the recording of a confidence level by the officer. There are over 200 possible HLC types to choose from. A number of these, for example 'smallholdings', were only used once during the pilot stages of the project.

The district of Craven, North Yorkshire lies within the project area but had already been characterised as part of the Lancashire HLC project[85]. It was one of the aims of the North Yorkshire and Lower Tees Valley project to bring this data into the same database and GIS system. Rather than characterising the areas from scratch, and to establish some continuity, the polygons from the Lancashire HLC project were captured, attached to a record in HBMSR and populated by information held in the Lancashire records.

Four pilot areas were initially established. These were selected to cover the wide variety of landscapes and character types within the project area. These were Filey, the Vale of Mowbray, Selby and Great Ayton. As discussed in section 7.3, the Birdsall Estate within Ryedale District of North Yorkshire was characterised as a fifth pilot area during the early stages of the project.

The HLC project has utilised several map resources almost exclusively in digital format. This has allowed them to be fully integrated into the GIS system. These digital resources will be discussed below.

3.3 Resources Used During the Project

3.3.1 Ordnance Survey Vector Mapping (2003-2010)

The main, base vector mapping resource used as part of the project has been Ordnance Survey MasterMap[86] data. This is a digital mapping resource provided by the Ordnance Survey which is based around polygons rather than lines. This has two very clear benefits, the first that it allows polygons to be captured and combined together to form the HLC polygons. This has the advantage over the previous use of vector line mapping in that a 'better fit' to the landscape can be achieved. The second advantage is that each polygon has metadata attached to it which provides historic information in itself. This has enabled it to be used in combination with the

[84] Toase 2010
[85] Ede and Darlington 2002
[86] http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/products/osmastermap/

aerial photographs (see 3.3.2 below) to determine the date of particular landscape features. This has been particularly useful in relation to very modern features such as modern plantations or housing estates, which have been established since the year 2000.

There have been some challenges with using the MasterMap data. Probably the most significant is the capture of map polygons which extend beyond the HLC polygon being defined, due mainly to the capture of roads during the digitisation process. This involved a programme of trimming and editing the polygon to make sure it fitted the appropriate area of historic character.

3.3.2 Vertical Aerial Photography

North Yorkshire County Council holds high quality colour digital vertical aerial photographs for the whole of the County Council area[87]. These enabled the historic character of the current landscape to be analysed visually, from an office base, particularly to confirm details such as boundary type and ground cover.

This dataset consists of nearly 17,000 individual images, each photograph covering an area of 1km. These digital images were accessed as a seamless map layer within the project GIS. Where aerial photographic coverage of partner areas was not held by the County Council, for example in the Lower Tees Valley area, this imagery was kindly supplied by the partner authorities for the duration of the project.

3.3.3 Historic six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey Mapping

To understand the historic character of the landscape, and establish how dynamic the landscape has been, the use of historic mapping has been essential. Two types of historic map were utilised in particular across the project area. These were the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63), and second edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1889-99).

In the urban area of the Lower Tees Valley characterised by Tees Archaeology, a number of other editions of historic Ordnance Survey mapping were available, (see section 3.4 below). The third edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1919-1920) and the fourth edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1930-1953) were also used for the rural areas of the Lower Tees Valley to create a consistent data set for this part of the project area.

The georeferencing of the maps, which were in imperial measurements, to a metric system meant that in many cases the match with the modern mapping was not exact, however, the similarity of form was clearly visible on visual examination.

In the central urban area of the City of York, the six-inch mapping was not of a scale to enable the detail required for characterisation to be seen. Therefore, the City of York Authority, for the duration of the project, kindly supplied digital 60" to 1 mile mapping of the city, dating to 1852, which enabled accurate assessments to be made of the historic character of the present urban area.

Within the project timescale, it was not feasible to utilise archive cartographic materials, such as tithe and enclosure maps. The digital historic mapping, similar to

[87] © UK Perspectives

the vertical aerial photographic coverage, was accessed as a seamless map layer in the project GIS.

3.3.4 Ancient Woodland Inventory

One of the main datasets used within the project was the ancient woodland inventory data, maintained by and downloaded from Natural England[88]. This provided information on the character of the woodlands identified within the project area. By their inclusion or exclusion from the ancient woodland inventory, a decision was reached regarding the probable date. The two hectare cut off point provided the lowest limit for the size of polygon to be digitised, therefore areas of woodland less than two hectares in size were not characterised individually.

During the initial stages of the project, the ancient woodland inventory GIS information was found to be indicative, with the polygon often covering both the woodland and surrounding areas. One of the initial aims when digitising areas of woodland for the HLC project was to 'tighten' the boundary to the woodland, using the basemap data.

In addition, using the Ordnance Survey vector mapping and the aerial photography, it was possible to establish if areas of woodland had been cleared since the creation of the ancient woodland inventory, in effect creating an up to date assessment of the character of ancient woodland in the project area.

3.3.5 Published And Unpublished Works

Many published and unpublished works were used during the course of the project. These can be found in Section 8 of this report. Some of these works are general histories of the area, others are specific to a particular industry or location. In relation to enclosed land, the project relied heavily upon the work of Barbara English on Yorkshire Enclosure Awards[89]. This provides information on all the parliamentary awards within the historic three ridings of Yorkshire, and enabled the project to establish a specific date range for each area of planned enclosure, where an award existed.

3.3.6 Other digital datasets

A number of other datasets were utilised throughout the course of the project. Many of these sit within the Historic Environment Record such as:

Listed building records

Listed building records, downloaded from the English Heritage National Monuments Record 'Download Spatial Data' website[90], are held in the respective Historic Environment Records, and were used to provide a quick overview of the time depth of settlements. This could then be used to cross reference with images of listed

[88] http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/gis/gis_register.asp
[89] English:1985
[90] http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/archives-and-collections/nmr/spatial-data/

buildings, accessible via the Images of England website[91] to confirm the character of settlements.

Registered Parks and Gardens records

By referring to the data on registered parks and gardens, similar to the listed building records, available in the respective HERs and derived from English Heritage datasets, it was possible to establish the extent of the designated parkland and ensure this was adequately reflected in the HLC record. In some cases the character within the registered area was different, for example agricultural land. In these cases the character could be described in such a way to reflect this. These helped provide additional information and enhance the assessments made based on the digital mapping.

One other specific resource, worthy of special mention, is the Yorkshire Dales and Cleveland mines data from the Northern Mine Research Society[92]. This allowed the date and longevity of an area of mining to be determined. Similarly, the on-line data base of the Durham Mining Museum[93] was used when characterising the extractive areas of the Lower Tees Valley and the North York Moors.

3.3.7 Online resources

During the course of the project, it was often desirable to confirm the character of a particular area, however, time constraints and the extensive size of the project area made site visits impractical. Therefore, other online resources were used to enable the historic character of the landscape to be verified.

Geograph.org.uk[94] is an online resource with the stated aim to have at least one photographic image for each kilometre grid square within the British Isles. By using the Geograph online resource, the character of boundaries, settlements and woodland at ground level could be visually assessed without making a site visit. Some of the photographs used from this resource can be found in Appendix B, subject to the Creative Commons Licence reproduced below the list of plates in the report contents section, and within Appendix B.

During the latter half of the project, Google Streetview[95] came online for the British Isles. This allowed sites to be visited virtually, enabling the officer responsible for characterisation to 'walk' down streets and confirm the character of settlements. This was only available within the more urban areas within the project, but became invaluable during the characterisation of the City of York.

Access to Archives[96] provided some excellent resources for the project. Genuki.org.uk[97] also provided a large amount of detail, specifically a dictionary of Yorkshire dialect which was useful in interpreting place and field names on the historic mapping.

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[91] http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/
[92] http://www.nmrs.org.uk/main.html
[93] http://www.dmm.org.uk/mindex.htm
[94] http://www.geograph.org.uk/
[95] http://maps.google.co.uk/intl/en/help/maps/streetview/
[96] http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/
[97] http://www.genuki.org.uk/

3.4 Characterising Urban Settlement Areas of the Lower Tees Valley

(contribution by Peter Rowe, Tees Archaeology)

Early in the project, Tees Archaeology offered to provide additional officer time towards characterising the urban settlement areas of the Lower Tees Valley, including Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Billingham and Stockton-on-Tees, see Figure 11. This enabled the urban historic character of these areas to be characterised in further detail than for the rest of the project area. A finer level of detail was recorded, almost on a street by street basis.

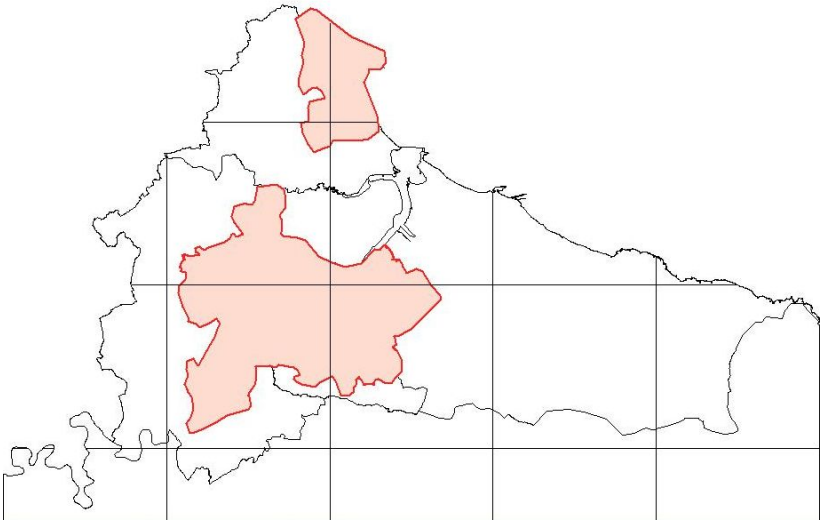

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Figure 11 The extent of the urban settlement areas characterised by Tees Archaeology in the Lower Tees Valley area

The principal sources used to plot the development of the townscapes were GIS-based historic Ordnance Survey maps, the Tees HER (including listed buildings data), written histories, aerial photographs (where there were significant gaps in the Ordnance Survey map data) and local knowledge. During the project, a series of current, oblique aerial photographs were made available on line by Windows Live (now Bing.com[98]). These covered most of the urban areas and enabled digital, remote visual inspection of individual buildings at a very useable scale. The images can be rotated and viewed from each of the four principal points of the compass. This allowed the townscape to be assessed on a building by building basis if necessary.

The available historic Ordnance Survey maps allowed changes to the landscape to be recorded, practically on a decade by decade basis, for much of the 20th century. The maps consulted are set out below: -

Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile County Series Maps:

First edition	Durham	1857-1861
First edition	Yorkshire	1853-1857

[98] http://www.bing.com/

Second edition Durham	1898-1899
Second edition Yorkshire	1895
Third edition Durham	1923-1924
Third edition Yorkshire	1919-1920
Fourth edition Durham	1932-1950
Fourth edition Yorkshire	1930-1953

1:10000 National Grid Series

Fifth edition	1952-1958
Sixth edition	1962-1970
Seventh edition	1971-1980
Eighth edition	1981-1990
Ninth composite edition	1974-1995

Using these tools and resources, it was possible to zone individual settlements into broad areas on paper maps, see Figure 12, and to then plot the results en-block on the GIS and database. The average polygon size is significantly smaller than for rural areas as many represent smaller open spaces, such as bowling greens and schools, or small blocks of housing that are often less than two hectares in extent but are significantly different from their environs, see Figure 13.

Results

In general terms, it was noted that the area was still largely agricultural in the mid 19th century with the townscapes really only developing in the second half of the 19th century and early decades of the 20th, and even then in relatively discrete areas such as West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton, see sections 4.7 and 5.4. The dominant surviving urban character type from this period is terraced housing of various styles. These could be most easily be distinguished from each other by their external spaces and several new character types were introduced.

The most basic type was the terraced house with direct frontage onto the street with a small yard to the rear. These are normally plain fronted, perhaps with some detailing to windows and porches. These were presumably built to house the majority of the workforce in a gridiron of housing, see Plate 1.

Larger terraced houses were noted to line the main routes into towns and these usually have small forecourt front gardens and perhaps a longer yard or small plot to the rear. They usually benefit from additional features such as bay windows to the main elevation. These are likely to have housed small business owners and the lower professional classes.

Much larger terraced properties were also apparent in the suburbs to the towns. These often have more extensive open spaces to the front and rear and approach villa-like proportions. Bays might be in stone rather than wood and additional features, such as balconies, might appear on the principal elevations. Larger houses of this type might be two-and-a-half storey.

Very large detached villas are also built in this period to house the many entrepreneurs attracted to the area. These are usually individually designed houses, rich in architectural detail, and with extensive grounds, often with ancillary buildings

such as stables and groundskeepers quarters. They often line major roads into towns or were developed in discrete areas within the suburbs.

Many institutional buildings are constructed in this period including town halls, schools and hospitals, many of which were large enough to be given their own character type. Gifts of land for public parks in this period, such as Albert Park, Middlesbrough and Ward Jackson Park, Hartlepool help to punctuate the largely urban character with open space as do municipal cemeteries. Many commercial buildings such as banks, and public houses, within current town centres contribute significantly to their character.

Terraced housing continues to dominate the area until the outbreak of the First World War when there is a hiatus in development. Following the end of hostilities, the urban character type changed, with semi-detached properties beginning to appear in once rural areas, particularly along the main approach roads into towns. There is an emphasis on private open space and details such as bow windows and hipped roofs become common, see Plate 2.

The first municipal estates begin to appear in the area in this inter-war period. These often aspire to the Garden Village movement with elements of open space built into the street plan and gardens to each of the properties, such as at Grove Hill, Middlesbrough. It is presumed that features such as indoor toilets and bathrooms begin to be added to most housing stock in this period. Cul-de-sacs begin to appear in favour of the more traditional grids of housing. At the same time there are extensive clearances of older terraced houses in some of the more central areas.

World War II forces a second hiatus in the development of urban housing. In a number of cases small estates and cul-de-sacs are left unfinished for several decades. Following the end of hostilities construction of new housing begins again. There is a marked difference in style with buildings becoming more functional and lacking architectural details such as projecting bow windows, presumably reflecting the scarceness of raw materials. Slate tends to stop being used altogether as a roofing material at this period, a difference that is very evident from aerial photography. Rapidly erected pre-fabricated buildings were noted in a number of locations including both bungalows and two storey dwellings but their survival is rare, see Plate 3.

Despite all of this urbanisation, the area is still relatively compact at the beginning of the 1950s. It is not really until the 1960s and 1970s that large planned estates, both municipal and private, usually of detached or semi-detached houses, begin to radiate from the cores of the original settlements, see Plate 4. This is apparent in towns such as Billingham where a new town centre is constructed with civic facilities such as its own theatre. High rises begin to appear in this period, often on municipal estates or as infill within town centres. Clearances of earlier terraces in the centre of towns continue with housing generally replaced with commercial premises such as shopping centres and industrial estates. Institutional architecture also changes considerably at this time. For example, school complexes become much larger and are built largely in glass with distinctive coloured fascia panels.

The building of housing estates continues into the 1980s with new planned settlements such as Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough and Ingleby Barwick, Stockton-on-Tees spreading onto former agricultural land. These often have their own neighbourhood centres. These estates continue to develop in the 1990s and 2000s

with new settlements established at Middle Warren, Hartlepool and a large executive housing development at Wynyard, Stockton-on-Tees.

The early 2000s sees the introduction of smaller blocks of apartments within urban areas. These often appear in the former gardens of larger Victorian houses or on cleared institutional sites such as hospitals and schools. As a result the urban areas are becoming more and more residential in character, see Plate 5.

Outcome

The more intensive HLC within the urban areas of Teesside has already been used to build cases to retain key elements of character that fall outside of designated areas, such as conservation areas. This is particularly the case in suburban areas where there is pressure for back-land development and demolitions, see Plate 6. It is hoped that the urban HLC will be used by a broad range of local authority departments to assess the local distinctiveness and importance of different areas.

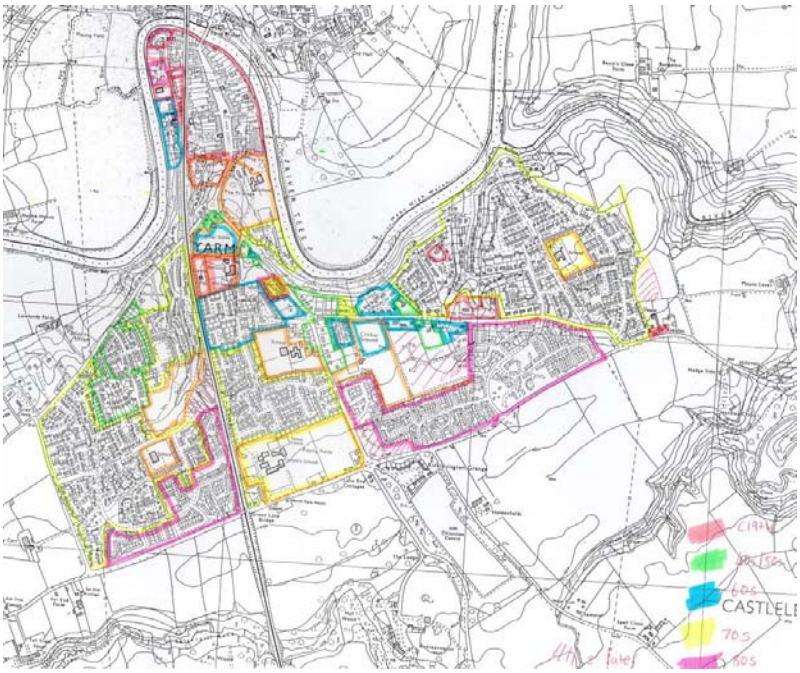

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Figure 12 *Initial definition of historic areas of urban settlement using hard-copy map prior to digitisation (see Figure 13)*

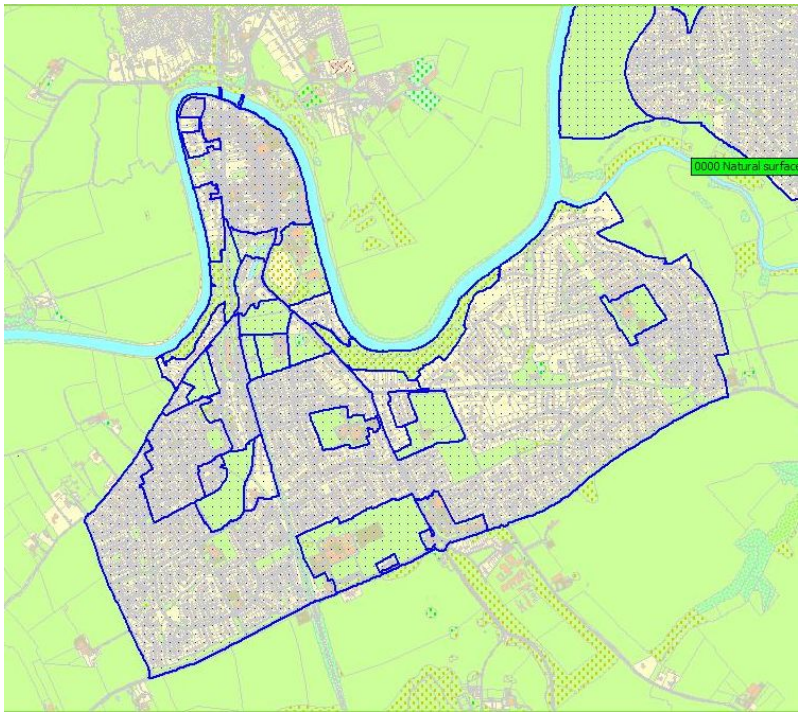

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Figure 13 *Digitisation of select areas on the GIS, as initially identified on the hard-copy base map (see Figure 12)*

3.5 Legibility

Legibility is one of the attributes that has been recorded in the project for every polygon characterised, but is probably one of the hardest to define. This attribute is used in relation to all broad types and aims to classify, in a relatively subjective fashion, the degree to which the previous historic character visible on the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63) remains visible in the current landscape.

Table 1 lists the values used to describe legibility and their associated scope notes from the database.

Legibility is a subjective assessment of how dynamic a landscape is, that is how much change has occurred by comparing the modern Ordnance Survey vector mapping (2003-2010) with the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63). In the case of enclosed land, for example, legibility has been assessed by the amount of change in boundaries which has occurred since the first edition six-inch County Series Ordnance Survey mapping (1846-63). This may be indicated by boundary loss, or possibly an increase in boundaries subdividing existing fields. In relation to settlement, the legibility assessment may be based on the increase in dwellings (which in terms of modern estates can have a fairly dramatic impact on the historic character) or the amount of infilling in established settlements.

HLC Legibility Attribute Value Description	Scope Note
Complete	Used where the present landscape character type has historic value
Significant	There are many elements of the previous historic character within the landscape forming prominent landscape features
Partial	Evidence relating to previous character types is visible within the present environment but is, on the whole, discontinuous
Fragmentary	This term is employed where the previous historic character is only slightly visible within the landscape, for example were field boundaries have largely been removed but the external boundaries are preserved, eg in the shape of a housing estate
Invisible	This term is used where the previous historic character is not visible at all. For example, where development has completely replaced an earlier field system

Table 1 HLC legibility attribute value descriptions

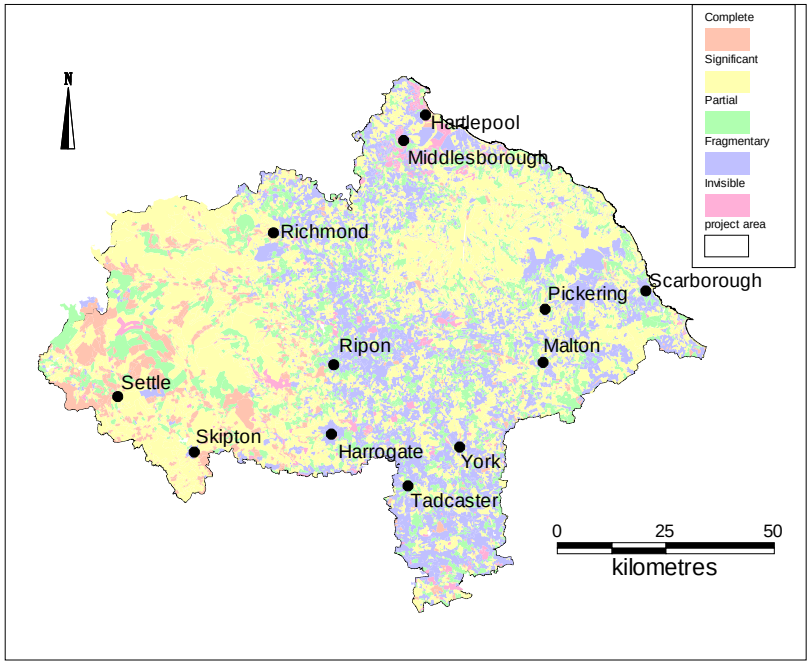

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Figure 14 Legibility of the HLC of the project area

Figure 14 shows the legibility as recorded for the whole project area. This highlights areas of the landscape where change in the legibility of the HLC type has been more dynamic in comparison to areas where there is more time depth, for example with little change in boundaries.

This shows that the most accelerated change (as defined by areas of fragmentary and invisible legibility) has occurred in the central part of the HLC project area, away from the National Parks and AONBs, particularly focussed on the Vales of Mowbray and York and the Lower Tees Valley. However, upon closer inspection of the data, it is clear that there are areas within this wider pattern which have seen very little change, for example smaller areas of landscape which have seen no change in their character type since the 1850s.

Legibility has an important strategic role to play in the management of the historic character of the landscape. In the Highways Agency's guidance on assessing the effect of road schemes on historic landscape character, for example, there is specific reference to legibility. In order to inform the screening or scoping report for a road scheme, questions of how the proposed scheme would affect the HLC and the future legibility of existing time-depth should be considered[99].

3.6 Confidence

The project was undertaken as a desk-based exercise using only the sources described in section 3.3. Due to the large extent of the project area and the time constraints, it was not possible to verify historic character interpretations on the ground. Over the five year duration of the project, inevitably, information recorded by the mapping and aerial photographic sources used may have become out of date. Where discrepancies were identified between sources, these were noted in the database record and the latest dated source was used to inform the characterisation. The project results, therefore, represent an interpretation of historic character at the point in time at which each record was created.

The confidence of decisions made by the project officers about their interpretation of the historic character of an area is recorded in the database using the terms certain, probable or possible. This allows the interpretations to be assessed on their likelihood. Similarly, in the database fields recording the confidence of start and end dates of date ranges (Year from confidence; Year to confidence), uncertainty is recorded with a question mark.

The project records, therefore, provide a starting point; a framework for more detailed work to be undertaken thereafter, which may refine or amend the interpretations.

[99] Highways Agency 2007

4. Overview of Historic Landscape Character Types

4.1 Enclosed Land

Broad Type	HLC Type
Enclosed land	Ridge and furrow - previous type only
	Lowland intakes
	Planned large scale parliamentary enclosure
	Smallholdings
	Pasture
	Demesne
	Large scale private enclosure
	Unknown planned enclosure
	Intake
	Lynchets
	Lowland meadow
	Modern improved fields
	Cow pasture
	Piecemeal enclosure
	Open field
	Assart
	Early field system
	Crofts associated with settlement
	Strip fields

Table 2 HLC types within the enclosed land broad type

Description

The overall percentages of each broad type throughout the project area, by hectarage, can be seen in Chart 1. From this, it can be seen that enclosed land accounts for over 70% of the landscape studied, while unenclosed land defines 13%. What this enclosure represents in human terms is an undertaking to divide up and manage the landscape. It is very easy to see the field systems as abstracted, especially in a study so extensive in area as this. However, it is worth bearing in mind that each field represents the intention to change the landscape, and has encapsulated within it many hours of digging ditches, laying hedges or building dry stone walls. Enclosed land does not just represent one single understanding of the landscape, and within this study we have been able to characterise many types of field systems, as can be seen from the HLC types listed in Table 2. Each type of field system, from the creation of strip fields in the medieval period to the creation large modern improved fields, has contributed to the landscapes in which we live and work today. In basic terms, within the HLC project, an area has been characterised as enclosed land where it has a series of fields defined by internal and external boundaries, see Plate 7.

The following section will explore the field systems of North Yorkshire and the Lower Tees Valley, drawing out the broad trends that emerge from the project results within the enclosed land broad type. The different character types which have been recognised and recorded will also be explored in more detail.