LANCASHIRE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION PROGRAMME

A report on the context, method and results for the Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool areas

DECEMBER 2002

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Lancashire County Council with
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ENGLISH HERITAGE

The Lancashire Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme was carried out between 1999 and 2000 by Lancashire County Council with the support of English Heritage.

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Quernmore, Forest of Bowland. © Lancashire County Council.

The shrunken medieval settlement of Hawthornthwaite, near Abbeystead shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1847 and on the modern 1:10,000 mapping.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the results from a two-year study of the historic landscape character of Lancashire, including the unitary authority areas of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Borough Councils. The work forms part of a national programme sponsored by English Heritage and carried out in partnership with the English local authorities, usually at a county level.

The aim of the Lancashire programme was to *characterise the distinctive, historic dimension of today's urban and rural environment in Lancashire*. This was achieved largely through desk-based research, which first identified a range of attributes within the landscape (such as fields, boundaries, current and historic landuse) and then grouped them into historic landscape types of common and recognisable character.

The report is in three parts: the circumstances of the project are outlined in Part I followed by a brief overview of Lancashire's diverse landscape. Part II includes an explanation and justification of the methodology employed for the identification and mapping of historic landscape character (HLC) types, and is supported by technical data presented in the Appendix.

Part III of the report describes the 21 separate historic landscape character types that are based upon the criteria of date and current landuse:

- Ancient (pre-AD1600) Enclosure
- Post-Medieval (AD1600-1850) Enclosure
- Modern (post-AD1850) Enclosure
- Ancient and Post-Medieval (Pre-AD1850) Woodland
- Modern Woodland
- Ancient and Post-Medieval Settlement
- Modern Settlement
- Modern Recreation
- Ancient and Post-Medieval Ornamental Land
- Modern Ornamental Land
- Ancient and Post-Medieval Industry
- Modern Industry
- Modern Military
- Modern Communications
- Moorland
- Reverted Moorland
- Lowland Moss and Grassland/Scrub
- Water
- Saltmarsh
- Dunes
- Sand and Mudflats

The types are assessed in terms of the historical processes from which they derive, the historical and archaeological components that they contain, the characteristics that distinguish them from similar types and the rarity of the type across the county. Finally, recommendations for enhancing and safeguarding each type, including their attributes, are included alongside a summary bibliography that lists key sources.

PART I:
INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

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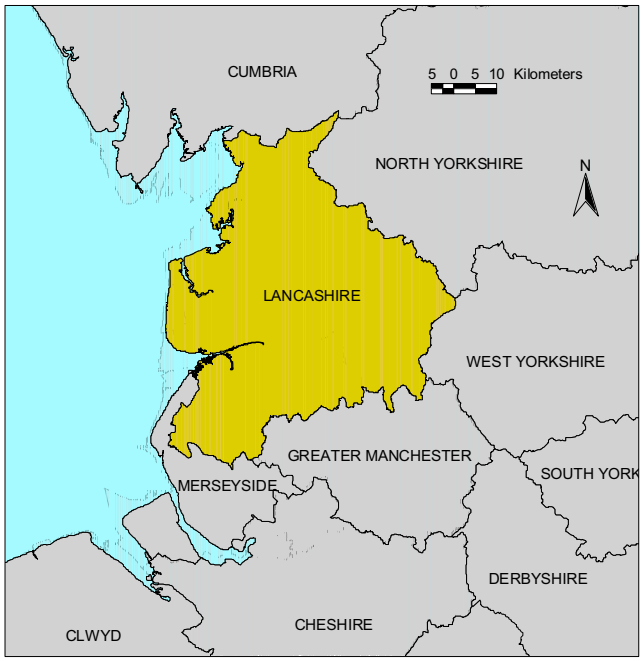
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION



The Lancashire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project commenced in January 1999. The original study area comprised the county of Lancashire and the unitary authority areas of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Blackpool Borough Council, with work carried out by the Archaeology Service of the county's Environment Directorate, supported by English Heritage. The project was completed in October 2000 with additional work to extend the mapping to Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Merseyside) and the area of Craven District Council outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park (North Yorkshire). This report on the project is divided into three parts: Part I provides an introduction both to HLC and to Lancashire, including a brief description of the county's landscape, Part II describes the characterisation methodology applied, whilst Part III is a summary presentation of the results.

1.2 THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION PROJECT OF ENGLAND

Over the last ten years the historical dimension of the landscape has received increasing recognition in the United Kingdom and in mainland Europe. Both archaeological and historical approaches have been identified as important factors in assessing the value of areas of landscape (Countryside Commission 1987, 1993, 1996), and the concept of "cultural landscapes" has been recognised in a number of European and British initiatives (Fairclough *et al.* 1999). In September 1991, the UK Government White Paper "*This Common Inheritance*" invited English Heritage to prepare a list of landscapes of historic importance (English Heritage 1991), similar to its *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*. The intended purpose of this work was to define areas of landscape deemed to be more "historic" and, therefore, more worthy of preservation than the surrounding areas. Subsequently English Heritage instigated a number of pilot projects to assess appropriate methodologies for identifying "historic landscapes" (summarised in Fairclough *et al.* 1999). The results led to the view that a more holistic approach to historic landscape assessment than that originally envisaged was appropriate and a fuller understanding that the "requirements for historic landscape conservation would not be met by a selective register" (Fairclough 1994, 35). This more holistic approach would characterise all areas within the landscape with reference to agreed criteria, and not concentrate on the identification of key "historic landscapes". Further grading, in terms of

the relative importance of different parts of the landscape, would only be undertaken to meet the needs of specific planning or conservation-led enquiries.

Such an approach, in which the whole of an area of landscape is assessed and characterised, is in line with methodologies of landscape assessment undertaken for non-historical reasons. The general purpose of these has been defined by the Countryside Agency (Countryside Commission 1993, 1998; Countryside Agency 1999)[1] as assisting local authorities, land use and conservation agencies and the private sector to:

- Understand how and why landscapes are important.
- Promote the appreciation of landscape issues.
- Successfully accommodate new development within the landscape.
- Guide and direct landscape change.

Since 1995, English local authorities in partnership with English Heritage have increasingly turned to Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as a tool for understanding and managing change within the cultural landscape. HLC is a map-based technique, often using a Geographical Information System (GIS), designed to produce a generalised understanding of the historic and archaeological dimension of the present-day landscape. It is based on the appreciation that every aspect of the landscape has been influenced and, in many respects, physically shaped by human activities. The end result is a tool for understanding the processes of change in the historic environment as a whole, for identifying what is vulnerable, and for maintaining diversity and distinctiveness in the local scene.

1.3 THE LANCASHIRE HISTORIC LANDCAPE CHARACTERISATION PROJECT

The Lancashire HLC project assembled and integrated information on present land use, land cover, physiography (land form, geology and soils) and visible evidence of human history in the landscape, the built and the semi-natural environment. Analysis of this information was structured by the grouping of historic and other environmental *attributes* in a classification of generic *HLC Types* of distinct and recognisable common character.

The distribution of *HLC Types* was mapped using the County Council GIS, with outputs of mapped data supported by written descriptions of *HLC Types* (see Part III below) and the historical processes that they represent. In the final stage of the project the *HLC Types* were reviewed against broader landscape characterisations that exist for Lancashire and opportunities for further assessment, including urban areas and individual districts, were explored.

From the County Council's perspective the main requirement for the Lancashire HLC project was to inform and form part of the County Council's landscape assessment, and hence underpin landscape policies within the forthcoming Replacement Joint Lancashire Structure Plan: 2001-2016. The latter exercise was carried out in parallel to the HLC by Environmental Resources Management consultants (Lancashire County Council 2001; http://www.lancsenvironment.com/strategies/landscapecharacass/contents.htm). Additionally, the HLC work was undertaken to enhance and broaden the level of advice provided through the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and to form part of English Heritage's national programme of historic character mapping.

[1] The statutory body working to conserve and enhance England's countryside, whilst at the same time promoting social equity and economic opportunity.

The aim of the Lancashire HLC project was:

> *to characterise the distinctive, historic dimension of today's urban and rural environment in Lancashire*.

In order to achieve the aim the following objectives were established:

- To create and document appropriate criteria to characterise the present landscape into *HLC Types* based upon identified *attributes* reflecting present land use, land management and settlement patterns, and visible and inferred evidence for changes through time.
- To review sources and identify broadly uniform levels of data to be collected to inform the characterisation process.
- To collect data from identified sources.
- To identify *attributes* of individual units of landscape.
- To characterise the units of landscape into *categories* based upon the *attributes.*
- To produce detailed descriptions of individual landscape characterisation *HLC Types.*
- To prepare GIS-based maps of landscape characterisation *HLC Types.*
- To review those *HLC Types* and assess the potential for further stages of development.
- To produce an archive and a report summarising the project.

The results of the project form a permanent and renewable database. This will be utilised to provide information for a variety of planning, conservation and management-led initiatives and strategies. The outputs will ultimately be accessible to the general public, as well as to professionals in planning, countryside and heritage management.

2. THE LANDSCAPE OF LANCASHIRE: AN INTRODUCTION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Lancashire is a county that resists easy attempts to synthesise and generalise about its historic character. It has exceptionally diverse natural and historic attributes, from maritime and estuarine situations, across coastal plain and wetlands, to the central arable zones, the contrasting valley landscapes of north and east Lancashire, woodlands, a range of grasslands from acid through neutral to calcareous, and extensive upland moor and peatlands.

2.2 GEOLOGY

The underlying geology of the county is comparatively simple and is formed from four major rock types of three main geological periods (Carboniferous, Permian and Triassic). The Upper Carboniferous rocks include the Millstone Grit sandstones and coal measures of the Pennines. The Lower Carboniferous rocks include the limestone of both the Silverdale area and a band running west to east through Clitheroe into Yorkshire. Permian and Triassic rocks including sandstones and mudstones make up the west side of the county. This geological base has greatly influenced the county's landscape development, not only the topography, which has in part been a direct result of the rock types present, but also the pattern of soils, hydrology, water quality and vegetation. These in their turn have influenced the agriculture of the region, and perhaps as importantly, the remarkable industrial history of Lancashire. In addition, the diversity of rock types has provided a variety of building materials, influencing the character of the built aspect of the landscape.

Glacial action has also been important in influencing the Lancashire landscape, both in terms of the scouring out of valleys to leave more resistant and higher areas untouched, and through the deposition of drift material. Glacial drift occurs over large areas of the county, including the lower lying areas of west Lancashire where it has masked the underlying landforms resulting in a levelled, flat landscape. In addition, the variable nature of glacial action and deposition significantly contributes towards a similar variety of soil types, which by turn, are instrumental in determining the type of agriculture most suitable in the different areas.

2.3 SOILS

Lancashire has a wide range of soils, developed on varied parent materials and under different conditions. Lancashire County Council's Green Audit (1990) identified seven main types of soil. These comprise alluvial gley soils, earthy peat soils, brown earths and soils, gley podzols, stagnopodzols, stagnogley soils, stagnohumic gley soils and raw peat soils.

The effects of soil types upon subsequent land use are well documented elsewhere, and in Lancashire include the following:

- The soils derived from glacial drift deposits in the Fylde are heavy and the region consequently has much permanent grassland. Historically the area is renowned for its cattle rearing and dairy farming. The glacial drift derived soils in south west

Lancashire between the Ribble and the Mersey on the other hand are lighter and here there is extensive horticulture and arable cultivation.

- Soils on the peat of both the upland and lowland areas are quite different from each other. Whereas the lowland peaty soils are highly suitable for cultivation those on the upland are not due to their topographic location.

- Soils formed on the alluvial deposits of the floodplains of the major rivers are usually too wet for arable cultivation unless they have been drained, as in the Douglas Valley.

2.4 TOPOGRAPHY

The county is divided into three broad topographic zones - the lowlands, the uplands and the river valleys.

The lowlands predominantly comprise the area known as the Lancashire Plain. Here the underlying geology is mainly Permian and Triassic. However, glacial drift deposits, blown sand, peat and alluvium/silt, overlie these. This gives the area a gently rolling relief interspersed with gravel ridges (eskers) and low hillocks (drumlins). Occasionally higher and more irregular relief, such as the ridges around Chorley and Leyland, reveals the underlying solid geology beneath the drift.

The uplands are underlain predominantly by Carboniferous material and include the Forests of Bowland, Rossendale and Trawden, the West Pennine Moors and Lancaster Fells. The landscape is mainly open moorland, grass or heather with large areas of blanket peat formed on the flat gritstone plateaux. Around Silverdale the limestone has produced a characteristic landscape of crags and valleys.

There are four major river valleys, with associated tributary valleys. The rivers are, from north to south, the Lune, Wyre, Ribble, and Irwell. These are historically important corridors for movement, settlement and for drainage within the county.

2.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT IN LANCASHIRE

A rapid analysis of the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as of October 2002 gives a basic breakdown of the known archaeology from sites and finds in Lancashire as follows:

Period	No. of Sites	% of SMR	Main Themes
Palaeolithic	4	0.02	The Poulton Elk, two cave sites at Warton, a flint scraper
Mesolithic	64	0.28	4 Settlement sites, the rest mainly flint finds & scatters
Neolithic	114	0.50	Two long barrows, 7 other barrows (inc High park), 2-3 settlement sites, 1 cup-and-ring stone, the rest mainly stone tools & flints, esp. polished axes
Bronze Age	303	1.34	70 Barrows and cairns, 15 unenclosed cemetery sites, 9 enclosed cemetery sites, High Park and 7 other settlements, activity at 3 cave sites, Bleasdale Circle, Kate's Pad trackway, many stone and metal tools/weapons, 4 canoes
Iron Age	17	0.07	3 known hillforts, 4 other settlement sites, High park, findspots
Other Prehistoric (i.e. not assigned above)	108	0.48	Mainly finds, but also several settlements of 'late PH' date, several earthworks which are possible defended settlement sites along the Ribble
Roman	617	2.72	4 forts and Walton-le-Dale, Mellor Moor Signal Stn, 174 entries for roads, 190 coin find sites, 408 findspots total), 4-8 'native' settlements, High park
Early medieval	71	0.31	11 Church or chapel sites, 1 ½ battles, many crosses/graveslabs, some hogbacks, Cuerdale Hoard, Claughton barrow
Medieval	1164	5.13	82 moated sites, 4 major castles and 37 other defended sites and 21 motte (incl. ?) sites, 152 houses, 87 halls, 127 church and chapel sites, 247 crosses, 188 findspots, Sawley, Whalley, Burscough, Upholland, Lancaster Abbeys and Priories
Post Medieval	18747	82.60	2448 houses, 1398 mills, 744 churches and chapels, 1000+ wells, 1000+ quarries, roads, railways, canals
Undated	2240	9.87	Aerial photographic sites, place names, undated earthworks, etc.
Total Sites	**22696**	**100**	**NB Many of these are multi-period**

2.5.1 Palaeolithic (*c*.500,000-8000BC)

Palaeolithic culture flourished during the Pleistocene, when glaciations were interspersed with long periods of warmer climate. Britain was still joined to continental Europe at this time and in periods of intense cold, such as the last glaciation 25,000-12,000 years ago, populations retreated away from the area to the warmer parts of the continent.

In 1970 the skeletal remains of an elk were discovered at Poulton-le-Fylde, which displayed evidence of hunting (illustrated right). It is thought that the animal survived the chase by Palaeolithic hunters, but was wounded in its escape and died, sinking into an area of bog or marsh complete with one of the hunters' spearheads. Palaeolithic material has also been recovered from two cave sites at Warton in north Lancashire.

Apart from these finds, evidence from the Palaeolithic is relatively unknown in Lancashire although recent work in the wetlands has indicated that further investigation may reveal more evidence of occupation. For instance, evidence of Upper Palaeolithic activity was discovered on the fringes of the permanent snowfields of the Lake District and in the tundra around what is now Morecambe Bay.

2.5.2 Mesolithic (*c*.8000-4000BC)

Gradually, as the climate improved at around 8,500BC, the glacial ice sheets retreated and meltwaters separated Britain from the continent. The climate became warmer and wetter and by *c*.6,500BC pine forests had given way to deciduous woodland. Oak and elm would have occupied slightly better drained slopes, whilst exclusively oak woodland was predominant on poorly drained low-lying ground.

The Mesolithic is far better represented in the archaeological record than the Palaeolithic, although there is still a relative paucity of sites compared with other periods (64 sites, 14% of known prehistoric sites on the SMR). Improving climatic conditions could sustain settlement by large numbers of people and bands of hunter-gatherers occupied the upland and lowland landscapes of Lancashire following the herds and collecting food. A site at Rushy Brow, Anglezarke showed remains of temporary shelters and flint implements. It is thought to represent a temporary hunting camp of this period. Flint scatters discovered in the uplands between Saddleworth and Burnley indicate that there were other seasonal summer hunting camps in the hills. These are significant finds as some of the flint and chert implements were from Lincolnshire and east Yorkshire and indicate that regular long distance trade had already become established during the Mesolithic period. No doubt there was activity in the lower lying areas (as sites at Heysham Head near Lancaster and Halton on the River Lune demonstrate) but the ephemeral nature of the evidence and its vulnerability to later destruction ensure that they remain uncommon.

2.5.3 Neolithic (*c*.4000-2,500BC)

A shift from hunting and gathering to a settled agrarian society defines the Neolithic period. In the archaeological record, this change is manifested by the appearance of new artefact types – querns, sickles, pottery and polished stone axes which began to replace the tools of the Mesolithic period. Neolithic finds are more widespread than those of the earlier Mesolithic and may indicate more successful clearance and settlement of the densely wooded lowland areas (114 sites, 25% of known prehistoric sites on the SMR).

Environmental evidence, such as pollen from the lake muds and peats of the Lancashire mosses, confirms that vegetation cover was extensively altered with the adoption of farming practices. Sophisticated stone axes, arrowheads and other implements provide evidence of Neolithic occupation throughout Lancashire. Evidence of trade is shown by the finds of stone axes from the Langdale area of Cumbria. Elsewhere in the UK new types of site emerged in the Neolithic, including permanent settlement and large ceremonial monuments, although examples of such are rare in the county. There is evidence of burial in large ridge cairns however, for example at High Park, above Leck Beck.

2.5.4 Bronze Age *(c*.2,500-750BC)

From approximately 4,500 years ago metalworking technologies, along with new types of flint tool and pottery design, were introduced from continental Europe, marking the beginning of the Bronze Age. Cereal crops and stock rearing remained the mainstays of the economy, although changes in social organisation were reflected in the increasing numbers of burial and ceremonial sites with round barrows and stone cairns. Such monuments may be seen in the context of ritual landscape form and as territorial markers. These are evident throughout the Lancashire landscape (303 sites, 59% of known prehistoric sites on the SMR).

In the late Bronze Age, radical social and economic change led to the declining use of cairns and round barrows in favour of flat cemeteries which are less traceable features in the landscape, and to the introduction of new ceramic styles, including jars, bowls and cups. Evocative sites dating from this period can be found at High Park, above Leck Beck and at Portfield above Whalley, where settlements suggest continual occupation from the earlier Neolithic. A continuing deterioration in the climate to colder and wetter conditions appears to have restricted the early Bronze Age farming activities on the higher fells, which may then have been utilised for pastoral farming by the end of the period.

Accidental finds in the mosses of the Fylde and south of the Ribble, where conditions are suitable for preservation of organic matter, have revealed bog bodies, burials, traces of wooden structures and trackways, as well as implements of stone and bronze. At Preston Dock in 1855, 30 human skulls were discovered along with two dugout canoes, 60 pairs of deer antlers, 43 ox skulls, two pilot whale skulls and a bronze spearhead. Whilst some of these have been radio-carbon dated to more recent times, much of this collection is typical of the Bronze Age.

2.5.5 Iron Age (*c*.750BC-AD79)

Iron working was among the new technologies introduced to Britain from the continent in the Iron Age. Elsewhere in the south of the country population growth led to competition for land and the development of a more territorial society, hillforts and defensive enclosures being manifestations of this social shift (see Castle Hill, right,

near Leck). However, visible remains of the Iron Age within the Lancashire landscape are generally confined to the hillforts at Castercliffe and Warton Crag and a number of defended farmstead sites. The absence of evidence directly attributable to the Iron Age (with only 17 sites on the SMR), has led to acknowledgement that Iron Age communities within the area probably farmed and lived in much the same way as their Bronze Age predecessors and are therefore unrecognised in the record. Indeed, there is growing recognition of a continuity of both population and lifestyle in the North West of England from the late Bronze Age through to the post-Roman period.

Almost nothing is known of the political or territorial organisation of the area until just before the Roman Conquest except that most of the region was controlled by the Brigantes. The Setantii, one of the smaller tribes of the loose Brigantian federation, are believed to have occupied the Lancashire Plain and its adjacent foothills.

2.5.6 Roman Period (AD79-410)

The Roman invasion of southern Britain commenced in AD43, although the influence of the Empire on lowland Britain in terms of trade and social aspiration is recognised well before this date. Pacification of the indigenous tribes and the establishment of client kingdoms on their fringes progressed over the years, with the creation of formal tribal capitals (civitas) in Romanised towns, a military road network, and a series of forts. In Lancashire, Roman military activity may well have slightly preceded the formal and well-documented advances of Agricola in AD79, although traces are few. Agricola's campaigns, probably prompted by the internal conflict and resultant destabilisation within the controlling Brigantian tribe, utilised ship-borne troops who landed in the estuaries as well as a land army. Forts were established or formalised at Dowbridge near Kirkham, Ribchester (the bathhouse is illustrated, right), Lancaster and Over Burrow, although the first of these seems to have had only a short life. These sites were rebuilt during the AD120s and an industrial settlement was established at Walton-le-Dale, probably to supply goods to the Roman Army.

As already indicated the pattern of pre-Roman settlement was widespread and little will have changed under Roman occupation. Some of the native populations were relatively unaffected whereas others took advantage of opportunities for trade and adopted more Romanised practices. Roman army engineers built more substantial roads with metalled and cambered surfaces, to expedite the movement of soldiers, food and equipment.

Naturally these roads were also exploited as trade and communication routes. The Roman road network in Lancashire grew around two principal south-north routes: one from Manchester through Ribchester to Over Burrow and Cumbria, the second following the fringe of the coastal plain from Northwich in Cheshire to Lancaster, and two west-east routes: one from Kirkham to Ribchester and along the Ribble Valley into Yorkshire, the other from Lancaster along the Lune Valley. Some sections of these roads were later abandoned for long distance travel and are consequently well preserved and can be traced for miles; others can be seen in the course of modern routes, lanes and in the lines of hedges and field boundaries. Their alignments are important and tangible traces of occupation and movement. A network of smaller roads and tracks between settlements and farmsteads, many of which will have predated the period, undoubtedly complemented the major road system.

The Roman Empire was in decline by the 4th century as barbarian raids exploited weaknesses caused by political instability. At Lancaster the fort on Castle Hill was reconstructed about AD330-340, probably to defend against sea-borne raiders from the Irish Sea. Economic disruption and endemic insecurity arrested the growth of Romanised civilian settlements such as Lancaster, or caused their abandonment and, after AD400, the economy is likely to have been almost completely agricultural and rural. By the middle of the 5th century direct Roman rule had been replaced by local governance, the armies departing to defend more important frontiers. The Lancashire SMR lists 617 Romano-British sites (less than 3% of the SMR).

2.5.7 Post-Roman and Early Medieval Periods (AD410-1066)

Little is known of the settlement pattern of the native British population in the centuries immediately after the departure of the Roman administration from Britain. During the 5th and 6th centuries there appears to have been a reduction in population and an increase in woodland regeneration. Evidence for this can be seen in both pollen analysis of peat cores, and in the preponderance of later woodland place names.

Place names prove to be one of the few sources of information about these otherwise undocumented societies. They suggest that well into the 7th and 8th centuries the county was populated by British speaking peoples. Place names such as Pendleton and Penwortham, contain the British word ‘penno’, meaning a prominent steep ended hill. Three examples of the Walton place name, deriving from *walh* (and meaning settlement of the Welsh) indicate the survival of a British population within the county.

A significant number of place names display combined British and Anglo-Saxon influences and by the late 6th century the tribal kingdoms of North Lancashire were absorbed into Anglian Northumbria. Lancashire south of the River Ribble gradually became incorporated into Northumbria and, after a time, into Mercia.

Conversion of the Anglo Saxons to Christianity had begun in AD620 and many place names ending in suffixes of '*hamm*' (as at Kirkham and Heysham) and '*tun*' (as at Halton and Preston) indicate centres of importance containing early churches which governed wide tracts of the surrounding countryside. Place names containing '*ecles'*, which in Celtic languages is derived from the Latin 'ecclesia' meaning a place of worship, are evidence of early places of Christian worship within British settlements. Such settlements include Eccleston near Chorley and Great Eccleston in the Fylde.

By the 9th century place name evidence suggests a gradual settlement of both existing and hitherto unused land by Hiberno-Norse peoples. The Ribble Valley is likely to have functioned as a major routeway between the Viking kingdoms of York and Dublin. At Cuerdale on the banks of the Ribble in 1840, a vast hoard of Viking silver was discovered. It was dated to around AD905 and contained coins from as far afield as Afghanistan.

Place name evidence is again testimony to the activities of a non-documentary society, although it is likely that the new settlers renamed existing villages as well as establishing new sites. Goosnargh incorporates the personal name Gusan and Grimsargh that of Grimr. In south west Lancashire and the Fylde the suffixes '*by*' meaning farm (Formby, Crosby and Roby) and '*brekka'* meaning slope (Larbrick, Norbreck, Warbreck), both indicate Scandinavian settlement. In the north, place names of '*Ireby*' (farm of the Irish) indicate settlement by Irish Norse peoples and other suffixes such as *fell, force, gill, thwaite, beck* and *dale* point to more general Norse influences.

Despite the copious documentary evidence for Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian peoples, the archaeological evidence in terms of attributed sites and monuments is very slight, with the majority being carved stonework, usually crosses or finds. The SMR lists only 71 sites from the period.

2.5.8 Medieval (AD1066-1500)

At the time of the Norman Conquest there was no administrative district of Lancashire, so that within the Domesday Book, south Lancashire was described as *inter Ripam et Mersham* meaning between the Ribble and the Mersey. North Lancashire was described as part of the 'King's lands in Yorkshire'.

To ensure the security of this peripheral part of the Kingdom from the threat of attacks and uprisings (both locally and from Scottish and Irish sources), the English-held estates were confiscated and allocated to followers of the King. This was part of a policy of creating powerful lordships that could act as a front line of defence against invaders and keep the local population under control. A number of castles were therefore built at strategic locations. Most were motte-and-bailey sites positioned to control important routeways, for example the string of at least nine castles on either bank of the River Lune, including Castle Stede.

Roger de Poitou, under whom most of Lancashire was united in one lordship, established his capital manor at Lancaster by building a stone castle on the site of the former Roman fort. Clitheroe was another important castle, located on top of a limestone knoll, which controlled the strategic Ribble-Aire routeway.

The county was recognised in its own right in 1181-2 when an official of the royal exchequer wrote out a separate parchment in an accounts document headed '*Lancasra quia non erat ei locus in Northumberland*' (Lancaster, because there is no place for it in Northumberland).

Before this the area that is modern day Lancashire was included in annual financial statistics wherever there was space on the parchment rolls.

Following the upheaval of the Conquest, the reallocation of English lands to French nobles and the subjugation of rebellions in the north, the 12th and 13th centuries were a period of relative prosperity with economic expansion and population growth. The frontiers of settlement and agricultural activity were expanded to feed a burgeoning population; new settlements were established and more difficult terrain brought into use, wetland was drained, woodlands cleared and tracts of pasture ploughed up. Growth was checked in the 14th century by a combination of disease, bad harvests and warfare. The Black Death, which ravaged the country between 1348 and 1351, killed half of the Lancashire population. This resulted in an important alteration in the balance of both agriculture and the structure of medieval society. Ploughing for arable crops was replaced by the extension of pasture for livestock farming, including large-scale sheep farming to supply wool for the English and continental markets. The resources of the county, in particular a plentiful supply of water and extensive tracts of land for grazing sheep, lent itself to the expansion of an embryonic textile industry.

Over much of the county nucleated settlements were rare and most people inhabited small hamlets and isolated farmsteads. This pattern can still be seen in the countryside between Parbold, Mawdesley and Heskin and in much of the uplands. The exceptions include the planned villages of the Fylde such as Elswick and Clifton, and strings of nucleated villages along the main river valleys, particularly the Lune and Ribble.

In east Lancashire the 'fold' pattern was common and involved several cottages and farms sharing a common yard. Examples of this can be found at Horrocks Fold and around Wardle and Littleborough. In the uplands, where unfavourable soils, climate and topography discouraged arable farming, the 'infield-outfield' system was adopted. Crops were grown for subsistence close to settlements and the wider landscape was devoted to summer grazing. By contrast, in the lowlands, arable farming was widespread until demand forced a change to livestock and market gardening. Some lowland communities operated an open or common field system, although this was rarely the rigid three field system of the Midlands as the scarcity of drier land meant that a fallow year was economically unviable. The legacy of 'ridge and furrow' confirms that the open-field system was present. Beyond the open arable fields, many towns had areas of common pasture which were frequently referred to as 'moors' and are still identifiable in place names such as Moor End outside Halton in the Lune Valley. Surviving relict medieval landscapes can be seen in many places, for example at Longton, south west of Preston, and in the Ribble Valley.

Many of the townships in lowland Lancashire also contained areas of wetland. The Fylde, the shores of Morecambe Bay and the broad stretch of land from the Ribble through to Ormskirk included vast tracts of mossland. These contained many pools and lakes; Martin Mere was at one time the largest lowland lake in England, extending for some six miles. These areas, although described as 'waste' in later centuries, provided important resources for rural communities. Peat was a valuable fuel; reeds were used for thatching and rushes for candles. Waterfowl and fish were sources of year-round food and many acres of land were secured as rough grazing for livestock. Between AD1100 and 1300 population pressures forced the drier edges of the mosslands to be regarded as potential farmland. The small-scale drainage works to bring these marginal mosslands into cultivation were the precursor of one of the most important long term changes to Lancashire's landscape; that of wetland drainage.

Woodland clearance also resulted from population pressure and was widespread in the 12th and 13th centuries along the fringes of the Pennines and Bowland. These clearances are evidenced in the numerous place names of the period that include the term *ryding* (cleared land) such as at Ryddings Farm at Aighton, *rod* (clearing) such as at Blackrod and *stubbing* (clearing land of tree stumps) such as at Stubbins Nook, near Longridge. The effect of this was the creation of a small-scale intimate landscape of scattered farms linked by winding lanes and irregular fields with patches of surviving woodland on stream-sides and field edges. This landscape is still prominent in areas such as the Lune Valley and the Ribble Valley.

Medieval forests in Lancashire were located in the uplands. Forest in this period meant 'land set apart' and was subject to Forest Law. Woodland would have been economically important to medieval settlements as a feeding ground for swine and a source of timber for house construction, fuel, and bark for tanning, as well as for its forest animals. In Lancashire there were two main areas of forest. North of the Ribble were those of the Earldom of Lancaster which included Bowland, and to the south were the forests of the Honor of Clitheroe which included Pendle and Trawden. It is probable that these forests were created soon after the Conquest as special hunting grounds. Gradually, local landowners created private deer parks which themselves became much desired features of country estates. As the administration of Forest Law broke down many of the former forest areas were turned into vaccaries - extensive tracts of upland managed as cattle ranches.

Many of the industries that became important to the Lancashire economy have their origins in the medieval period. Deposits of iron ore were worked and there is evidence of iron working at Pendle, Trawden, and Quernmore and Roeburndale on the fringes of Bowland. Most of the coalfields were beginning to be exploited by the Middle Ages and stone quarrying developed as a significant industry. The most important industry, however, was that of textile manufacture, especially woollen cloths, linen and canvas. Spinning and weaving were undertaken on a domestic scale, although finishing and cleaning were carried out at a more industrial scale within water-powered mills.

It was also in the medieval period that town life gathered apace and many of the great population centres acquired urban characteristics. Initially these were formed around the markets that became established outside important churches or castles, such as at Preston and Lancaster, or at manorial holdings, and soon exerted a strong pull over their surroundings. For example, surnames appearing in Preston during the medieval period suggest a large number of the town's new settlers were being attracted from the Fylde and the Ribble Valley.

The SMR lists 1164 sites of medieval date, around 5% of the record.

2.5.9 Early Modern Period (AD1500-1750)

Lancashire's early modern period saw a gradual progression from a predominately rural county with a traditional pattern of settlement and land use into a county of industry with large towns and well developed trade and communications.

The industrialisation of the county has its roots in the textile industry, quarrying and mining, and other manufacturing of the late-Medieval/early modern period. The domestic manufacture of woollen cloths and fustian gained importance and provided additional income for thousands of families otherwise engaged in agriculture. This dual economy made it possible for large portions of the Lancashire population to survive on otherwise non-viable agricultural holdings. The rural landscape was in many places devoted to supplying the needs of the small-scale industries; flax and hemp were grown in the west to meet the needs of the 'linen men' and other small-scale manufacturers. Salt manufacture is noted as an important industry and there is evidence of early production from the extensive sandflats at Silverdale/Warton and Pilling/Cockerham.

Coal extraction similarly became more expansive and specialised to meet the demand caused by the rapidly growing population and a move to the use of coal rather than peat or wood as a domestic fuel. Deeper mines became possible with the invention of steam driven drainage pumps, and gradually became common on the coalfields.

By the 1750s most of Lancashire's common arable and meadow was enclosed. This movement had a far-reaching impact upon the moors and mosses where opportunities for greater financial returns from land drainage and improvement ensured many landowners now saw reclamation of otherwise less profitable land as an attractive prospect. Improvements in technology also played a role as windmills aided increasingly ambitious drainage schemes by the early 18th century. These developments made drainage an important feature of the Lancashire landscape from the 17th century onwards, including the notable example of the drainage of Martin Mere. Here, although some reclamation had begun during the medieval period, the pace of reclamation accelerated from the late 17th century and, despite being hindered by repeated flooding, was completed successfully by the 1850s. The process was aided by steam pumps and produced a vast tract of highly valuable agricultural land.

The sheep population increased during the 15th and early-16th centuries in line with the expansion of the

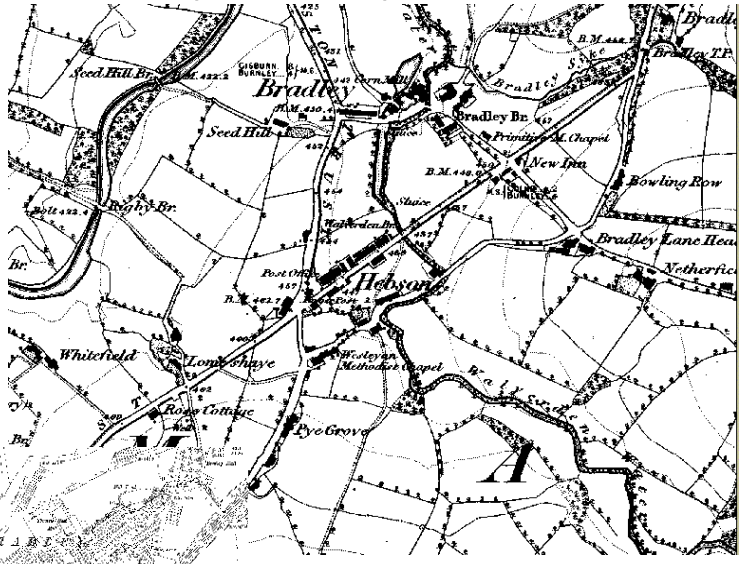
woollen and textile industry, although after 1600 a reduction of the industry resulted in a smaller demand for sheep in the south of the county in particular. Cattle gained importance and sizeable and profitable herds appeared by the mid-18th century. Dairying emerged as the mainstay of the Lancashire agricultural economy, with beef herds being driven to markets in the growing towns to meet the demand of the rapidly expanding urban population.

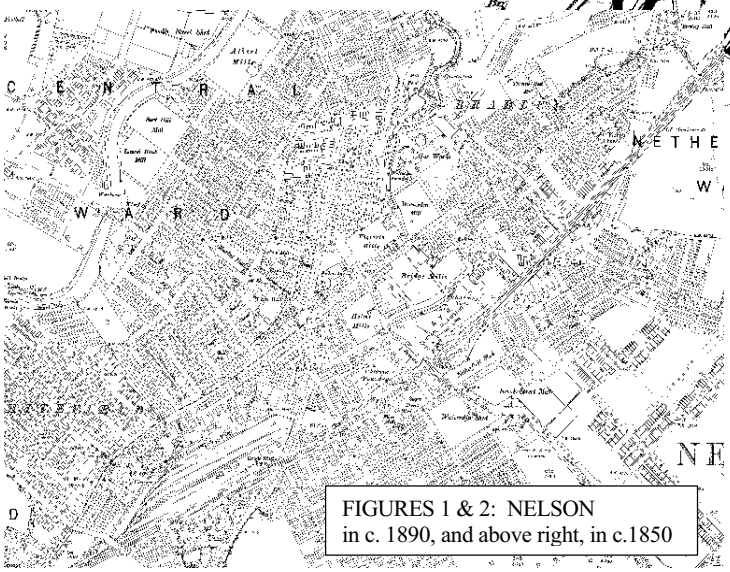
During the mid-16th century, stone or brick became the preferred building material and stimulated an ever-increasing demand for stone and slate. Sandstone quarries in the south west, limestone quarries around Clitheroe and slate and gritstone quarries around Pendle and in the Rossendale Valley all expanded rapidly. The majority of the half-timbered halls were rebuilt, particularly in the south east of the county, and now only their later stone and brick replacements survive. However, the survival rate of stone and brick farmhouses is good and many remain visible today.

As industrialisation gathered pace, the transport of bulk commodities such as coal from south Lancashire, cloth from the east of the county and salt from the coastal saltpans became important. Roads were generally maintained by the manor or by religious houses prior to the Dissolution of the monasteries in the late 1530s and early 1540s. Turnpike roads maintained by trusts and funded by tolls were introduced to the county after the 1720s. It is also around this period that schemes to improve river navigation appear.

2.5.10 Industrialisation and the Modern Period (AD1750-1900)

The gradual developments of previous centuries accelerated from the middle of the 18th century, with rapid changes creating a dynamic, industrialised society. The large-scale application of technology resulted in a move from a rural to an urban economy and placed increasing pressures on agriculture, mining, quarrying and the transport network.





FIGURES 1 & 2: NELSON
in c. 1890, and above right, in c.1850

Textile manufacture continued to dominate the economy of Lancashire, with cotton becoming more important than wool as supplies of raw cotton from the colonies became available through the ports, and the suitability of Lancashire's damp, mild climate for spinning cotton became evident. Existing waterpower and labour allowed this shift to be easily made. Other locally important textile

industries were: silk, produced at Galgate near Lancaster, and sailcloth at Kirkham. Initially the mills were water powered and located in chains along valleys, although by the early 18th century steam power was being introduced. This allowed mills to be situated close to canals and railways for easy movement of raw materials, finished products and the considerable quantities of coal required by the boilers. Despite the introduction of steam power for spinning, handlooms were still used for weaving cotton. Weaving became a full-time profession in its own right. This not only took place in ordinary basements and attics, but also on occasion within purpose built accommodation, including loom shops which are usually recognisable by their multiple windows. These proto-factories are conspicuous in the east of Lancashire (the adjacent picture is of 'The Weavers Cottage', Fallbarn Fold, Rawtenstall, late 18th century). After 1830 however, the application of steam power to weaving resulted in large factory-style weaving sheds in the towns and the decline of the cottage industry. Weaving sheds with their north facing roof lights are still a characteristic feature of East Lancashire towns.

The improvement of the county's transport network was central to the success of Lancashire's expanding industrial economy. The increasing globalisation of trade from Lancashire, principally with the West Indies and the Baltic, required the expansion and creation of ports such as Lancaster, Fleetwood, Heysham and Preston to meet demand. The Preston Corporation built one of the largest and most ambitious docks in the country at Preston which required the constant dredging of the Ribble and for which the town is still paying debt charges. In Lancaster the establishment of St. Georges Quay in 1750-1755 reflected increasing prosperity (illustrated, right). This was part of a boom that the city enjoyed from the middle of the 18th century, leaving a legacy of fine Georgian architecture. From the later 18th century the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the Lancaster Canal were constructed. The expansion of the network of turnpike roads also accelerated in the 1750s and an important second phase of road construction occurred between 1790-1842 when 505 miles of new road were built in Lancashire following relatively direct routes.

Lancashire occupied a pioneering position in the history of the railway network. Initially

wooden tracks facilitated the movement of coal tubs in the Lancashire coalfield and the introduction of iron rails followed shortly after their invention. A wave of passenger lines was constructed between 1840-60 linking industrial settlements. In the latter part of the century they played a major role in the transport of people to the newly developed coastal resorts.

The population of Lancashire increased sevenfold between 1801 and 1901. This period of 100 years saw a shift from a 10% urban population to almost 90%. This necessitated the expansion of old settlements and establishment of new towns. In the late 19th century wealthy patrons and officials made efforts to create an urban identity and stamp mature civic pride on communities. Slum areas were swept away for the construction of civic buildings and railway stations. By the 1870s urban authorities passed laws imposing minimum building standards and by the late 1880s terraces of houses were laid in strict bye-law conformity. During this period quarries such as that at Britannia near Haslingden were blasted for the gritstone needed to construct churches, public buildings and reservoirs.

Along the coast a string of resorts appeared after the middle of the 19th century to meet the growing demand for leisure and relaxation. Blackpool and Morecambe, along with Lytham and St Annes, developed from agricultural and fishing villages and attracted visitors in vast numbers.

The pressures of urban population growth on the rural economy were profound and lasting. Higher levels of demand created new incentives for investment and improvement in agricultural practices. In south Lancashire reclamation of mosslands continued and some of the best agricultural land in Britain was created. Market gardening emerged as an intensive industry during the early 19th century in areas around Ormskirk and Burscough. The improved communications were essential to the success of these ventures as they provided opportunities to import ash and manure as fertilisers and export fresh produce to the cities. In the Ribble Valley and the Fylde, a switch from arable production to raising dairy herds was an important development, stimulated by the growing demand for fresh milk in the cities.

From the end of the 18th to the middle of the 19th century pressure to create more productive arable land resulted in a new landscape of large square fields enclosing areas of previously open moorland. Elsewhere the geometric pattern is in evidence throughout the county, where extensive lengths of straight stone walls and verged roads replaced pre-

enclosure tracks and less regimented field boundaries in acts of rationalisation and improvement.

Up to this period the landscape was characterised by numerous small farms although, as the opportunities for wealth from farming emerged, many landowners looked to extend their properties by purchasing adjacent freeholds. Meanwhile, a traditionally conservative and Catholic gentry sought to express their wealth by rebuilding country houses in fashionable styles. Between 1700 and 1880 dwellings surrounded by attractive parkland were developed throughout the county, although many in later years became too expensive to maintain and were sold for institutional uses.

2.5.11 Recent History and Current Trends (1900- Present)

Up to World War I Lancashire was considered to be a prosperous county, renowned for its industrial and commercial power, its wealth and its cities, many of which had grown from mere villages only a century before. Following the war, foreign competition, diminishing overseas trade, outdated technology and rapidly decaying inner cities threatened to undermine its success. By the 1930s the county, like many areas of traditional manufacturing in the north, was suffering from a protracted depression from which it has taken half a century to emerge.

The interwar decline of Lancashire's traditional industries was swift. Despite a brief boom following the war, cotton production fell dramatically. Some firms switched to synthetic fibre production, but nothing could be done to avoid the mass unemployment created by the collapse of the textile industry and its ancillary trades. Preston for example suffered 55% unemployment at this time.

Coal mining entered a rapid decline during the 1950s. This was largely due to the antiquated nature of many pits and to foreign competition, but also resulted from unavoidable problems posed by geology and a proven lack of long-term resources. By 1960 almost all pits in Rossendale and mid-Lancashire had been abandoned. Today no pits are operational save a small number of shallow, opencast workings.

The transport network, which grew in tandem with industrialisation, suffered as the post war decline became entrenched. For instance in the first half of the 20th century, the canal network contracted and many miles fell derelict. This trend is, however, being reversed with major schemes to rejuvenate the canals as a leisure resource. For example, a new stretch of canal has been built to link the Lancaster Canal to the Ribble estuary. In addition there is potential for re-opening railway stations in East Lancashire and on the west coast main line. Despite a general decline in the transport network, the success and widespread appeal of

the motorcar has ensured a certain degree of growth. The 1920s saw dramatic new road schemes and later in the century the County Council planned a new motorway network. The Preston Bypass, the first motorway in the country, was opened in 1958 and in the following twenty years Lancashire saw the emergence of a well-integrated transport network, which proved so successful that capacity was reached by the 1980s necessitating a major new improvement scheme.

Towns and cities have suffered profound and lasting change during the 20th century due to the combined effects of population decline, suburbanisation and economic change. Overcrowding problems of the urban poor were tackled by the urban clearance programmes of the 1950s and 60s, followed by the construction of large council estates and high rise flats, although the latter proved so unpopular that many have since been demolished. The creation of overspill communities was also tried, building on attempts in Manchester during the 1930s. As a result Skelmersdale was constructed to accommodate 70,000 people, overspill population from Liverpool, to rejuvenate a small mining community that was suffering severe unemployment problems. The last quarter of the twentieth century has also seen an attempt to link Preston, Chorley and Leyland into a city of half a million people called the Central Lancashire New Town.

The countryside, despite the effects of intensification and the application of new farming methods since 1939, has enjoyed a great deal of protection, with the designation of large areas such as the Forest of Bowland, and Arnside and Silverdale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Other areas also enjoy protection for ecological and geological reasons such as the marshes and mud flats of the Ribble estuary and Morecambe Bay, the limestone pavements of Silverdale and the moorlands of Bowland and the South Pennines. Enjoyment and management of the countryside for recreational purposes has been promoted since the late 1960s, with the opening for example in 1970 of the Beacon Fell Country Park and the provision of countryside recreation services particularly in the West Pennine Moors and the AONBs.

In recent years, sustained economic and employment growth have been concentrated in the service sector and light industry. Tourism, leisure, education, financial services, retailing and administration are also all increasing rapidly. In Preston for example, the University and City and County Councils are by far the largest employers; the city is once again a service and market town, as it was prior to the Industrial Revolution 200 years ago.

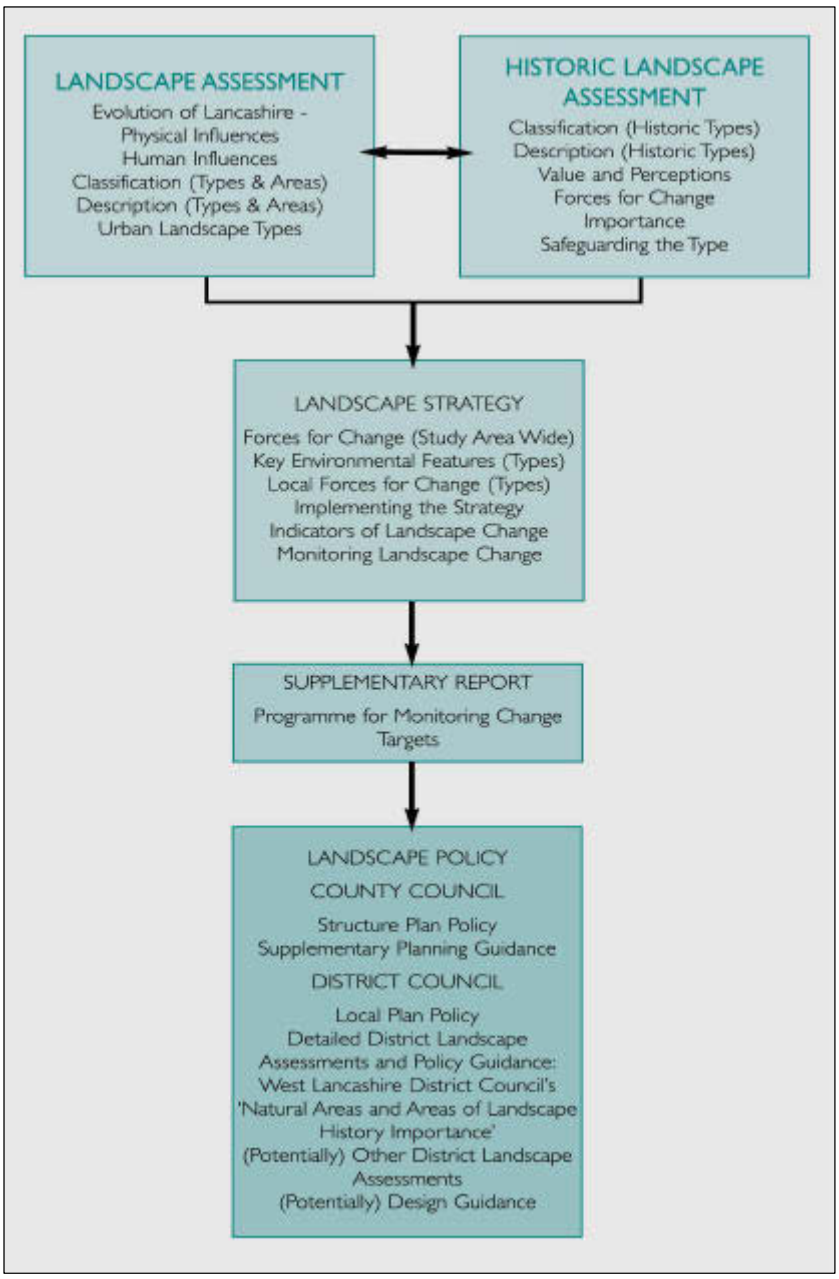
There are over 18,000 post-medieval sites on the Lancashire SMR, representing some 82% of the total and reflecting the dominance and importance of post-medieval and industrial archaeology and landscapes to the county.

2.6 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Since 1987 the Countryside Agency (then the Countryside Commission) has advocated the establishment of a national hierarchy of landscape character assessments to guide and inform decision-making on a range of land management issues, in particular the planning system. The *Character Map of England* (Countryside Commission 1996) forms the national overview, with the country subdivided into 181 unique character areas. The identification of character areas derives from generic character types which are themselves determined by the physical influences of geology, topography and ecology and human influence. Lancashire extends across twelve of these national character areas, which are far from homogenous. They include:

20 Morecambe Bay Limestones
21 Yorkshire Dales
31 Morecambe Coast and Lune Estuary
32 Lancashire and Amounderness Plain
33 Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill
34 Bowland Fells
35 Lancashire Valleys
36 Southern Pennines
54 Manchester Pennine Fringe
56 Lancashire Coal Measures
57 Sefton Coast
58 Merseyside Conurbation

Nested at a sub-regional level is the County Council's own landscape assessment work, the first example of which predated the *Character Map of England*. This was carried out in 1993 and the ten Landscape Character Areas identified form the basis for current landscape policy in the Lancashire Structure Plan 1991-2006. Further and more detailed landscape character assessments have been carried out in the two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Arnside/Silverdale and the Forest of Bowland), in the South Pennines and in the district of West Lancashire. More recently the Council has prepared a new landscape assessment as part of the Replacement Joint Lancashire Structure Plan review (Lancashire County Council 2001; http://www.lancsenvironment.com/landscape/index.htm). The work, undertaken by Environmental Resources Management for the County Council, was informed by (and informed) the historic landscape characterisation project, and will provide the principal vehicle for the implementation of advice through a combined (i.e. natural, aesthetic and historic) landscape policy. The relationship between the two parallel projects is illustrated below.



2.7 PREVIOUS HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDIES IN LANCASHIRE

There were a number of authoritative landscape history studies for the county on which the characterisation programme was able to draw. These included the research done by Drs Crosby, Higham and Winchester, work undertaken through the Centre for North West Regional Studies and Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, and by a small number of local archaeological societies.