

Historic Landscape Character Assessment Methodology

A30 Temple-Carblake

prepared for Hyder Consulting Ltd on behalf of the Highways Agency

by
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1 Definition

The historic landscape has developed through human interaction with the environment through time. A historic landscape assessment (HLA) is the process by which elements (such as field boundaries, settlements and roads) of the historic landscape are identified and classified both temporally (time-depth) and spatially in order to define historic landscape character (HLC).

2 Introduction

2.1 The Highways Agency has commissioned Hyder Consulting to carry out an assessment of the proposed dualling of the A30 Cornwall, Temple to Higher Carblake, up to DMRB Stage 2 and award of tender. Oxford Archaeology (hereafter OA) are subcontracted to Hyder to provide archaeological advice, and have the responsibility for the assessment of the Heritage of Historic Resources. A 2km wide study corridor has been defined following the line of the existing A30, and reports have been submitted on the archaeological resource and the impact of various proposed route options (September-December 2002). This Stage 2 archaeological assessment used information from the CCSMR, the NMR (including their aerial photographic collection), English Heritage's Schedules of Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Register Parks and Gardens, and Register of Historic Battlefields.

2.2 That report (OA November 2002) gave general consideration to the character of the historic landscape in assessing likely impacts, using the Bodmin Moor Survey (Johnson and Rose 1994) and the Cornwall Historic Landscape Character Assessment map (CAU and Countryside Commission 1994a). The 1994 characterisation was, however, acknowledged to be broad in scope and limited in the range of sources that was consulted (Herring 1998). In addition, subsequent county-wide characterisations in other counties have made the recording process more objective, refining and adding to the methodology, particularly in neighbouring Devon (Turner 2001 draft).

2.3 In accordance with the advice of both English Heritage and Cornwall County Archaeological Unit, therefore, OA proposes a more detailed assessment of the character and significance of the Historic Landscape within the Study Area, both to clarify the resource and to inform judgements on the scale and severity of impacts.

2.4 This document provides the scope of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment for the A30 Temple-Carblake scheme, setting out the aims and objectives of the assessment, the methodology proposed to achieve them and the outputs that will result from the assessment.

3 Previous Historic Landscape Character Assessment of the study area

3.1 The scheme is covered by the 1994 Cornwall county-wide assessment (CAU and Countryside Commission 1994), and the north-eastern half of the study area also by the Bodmin Moor Survey (Johnson and Rose 1994).

3.2 The former was a desk-based exercise aimed at defining broad Historic Landscape Types, which were then combined into Historic Landscape Zones and further combined into Historic Landscape Areas (Herring 1998, 13). In relation to limited areas of interest such as this scheme, the 1994 assessment has a number of shortcomings:

3.2.1 Most historic landscapes are the result of processes of modification over time, and are therefore likely to contain more than one of the types that was defined; in order to avoid over-complex systems that would obscure patterning, the process of characterisation involved making judgements as to the predominant landscape character type in any one area, which was then used to define that area.

3.2.2 The scale adopted for the mapping was 1:50,000 (or 1:25,000) and thus did not include much of the detailed information available on larger maps, though for the county-wide characterisation this was seen as an advantage (Herring 1998, 16).

3.2.3 Due to limitations of time and resources some important map sources, including 19th century Tithe Apportionment maps and the c1880 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping, were not used in the characterisation.

3.2.4 Checking the characterisation on the ground was only carried out for sample areas, which did not include the south-west part of this scheme.

3.2.5 The report deliberately avoided judging the relative importance of different landscape zones or types (Herring 1998, 13), and thus assisting the decision-making process where, as in the case of a road scheme, some impact upon the historic landscape is unavoidable.

3.2.6 For these reasons it was acknowledged (Herring 1998) that some errors might have been made through the broad scope and limited time and resources available to the project, and it was anticipated that the county-wide characterisation could be refined by "*investigating smaller parts of the county in greater detail, using larger scales of mapping and allowing closer analysis of the results, or concentrating analysis on particular historic landscape character types or 'zones'.*" (Herring 1998, 13).

3.3 The Bodmin Moor survey was a much more detailed surveying and recording exercise, for which detailed pro-forma recording sheets and agreed conventions and abbreviations were developed, and large-scale maps produced. The agreed conventions have been retained for subsequent surveys in Cornwall, and have now been adapted for digital recording in the Lynher Valley survey. They have also been used (with only minor modifications) for the HLA in Devon. This was however an archaeological survey, and did not result in detailed Historic Landscape characterization.

3.4 Characterization of the study area is therefore currently at two different levels. For the north-eastern part on the open moorland, detailed archaeological recording has been carried out, though this has not resulted in detailed characterization, while the enclosed farmland in the south-western part has only been studied on paper, and at a much smaller scale. In general terms, therefore, there is a need for more detailed observation of the anciently enclosed landscape on the ground to provide data of comparable quality to that on the moorland, and for more detailed characterization of the historic landscape throughout.

4 Consultation and the wider context

4.1 In preparing this document OA has consulted with Nicholas Johnson, Peter Herring, Peter Rose and Steve Hartgroves of CAU about various aspects related to the proposed methodology, and is currently awaiting comment from David Freke of the Highways Agency and Ian Morrison of English Heritage.

4.2 OA has examined the county-wide surveys in Hampshire, Kent and Devon for different applications of Historic Landscape characterization, and has taken account of the Devon survey in devising the more detailed methodology for this characterization.

5 Aims of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment

5.1 For the purposes of this scheme, the aims of carrying out further Historic Landscape Character Assessment are as follows:

To ensure that a sufficient understanding of the Historic Landscape making up the study area, its development, its survival/condition and its significance is available to enable the development team to understand the impacts of the route options under consideration, to make informed choices between the route options and to develop appropriate mitigation for the preferred route option.

5.2 In order to achieve this aim, a number of more specific objectives can be set out:

5.2.1 To obtain a more detailed understanding of the process of enclosure, landuse and boundary modification over time, and to relate this to the past and existing settlement pattern;

5.2.2 To obtain a more detailed understanding of the industrial landscape, its survival and condition, and its impact upon the earlier Historic Landscape, particularly on Bodmin Moor.

5.2.3 To assess the significance of the Historic Landscape within its local and regional framework

6 Proposed Outline Methodology

6.1 This Historic Landscape Character Assessment will be carried out in stages.

Stage 1 *A map regression exercise.* This will aim to establish those boundaries that were already in existence when the first maps were drawn up, to date the introduction of subsequent boundaries and the date of disappearance of those removed by merging fields, and from this to identify any periods of significant change in the documented historic landscape. Any such identified times of change may then be used to distinguish phases in the development of the landscape. A phased map of documented boundaries and settlements will be produced, and amendments to the gazetteer made as appropriate.

Stage 2 *Aerial photographic information and detailed survey information.* The map evidence will be married to aerial photographic evidence, both in the form of aerial cover of the study area for identification of characteristic features of boundaries (Get Mapping, for instance), and evidence of crop marks indicating former land boundaries. Together the map evidence and aerial photographs will be used to identify blocks of landscape of similar character. In addition, the detailed 1:2500 maps of the Bodmin Moor Survey will be examined for better definition of industrial features (not included in the published work: Johnson and Rose 1994), and the impact of industrial activities upon earlier landscapes will be assessed. A revised map showing the Historic Landscape Character of the study area, and a revised phased map of the development of boundaries and settlements, will be produced.

Stage 3 *Field visit and sample boundary recording.* A field visit to the study area will be undertaken to check the characterization arrived at through Stages 1 and 2. This will involve checking the relationships between boundaries believed to represent different phases of enclosure and sample recording of representative boundaries within blocks. On the open moorland the survival and condition of representative elements of the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval landscape will be checked. The recorded information will be used to create new gazetteer entries or to amend or add to existing ones, and revised maps of the current Historic Landscape Character, and of the phased development, will be produced as necessary.

Stage 4 *Detailed walkover survey.* In order to ensure that the risk of direct impacts to archaeological and historic features of the landscape is fully comprehended, a detailed record of a corridor, extending for 100m either side of the route options currently under consideration (Route Options 4, 4a and 7), will be made. This 200m-wide corridor will henceforth be referred to as the potential impact corridor). The potential impact corridor will be subject to analysis that will involve recording of all field boundaries in the anciently enclosed landscape, and verification of all key features of the industrial landscape. This recording will follow the criteria and conventions adopted by CAU for the Lynher Valley Survey (Herring and Tapper 2002) in order to feed back to the CCSMR in a form that can be integrated into existing datasets. This can take place in parallel with the Stage 3 recording.

This process will allow the identification of further archaeological sites such as the walls of rounds or prehistoric stone rows preserved in later boundaries, will enable the identification of earthwork features preserved in pasture, and may provide confirmation for crop-mark features identified from aerial photography. The survey will also be used to obtain information on current land use in advance of any further investigations such as field walking or geophysical survey. New gazetteer entries will be produced from the records, and their numbers (plus any new sketched features)

will be added to the Historic Landscape Character map and the phased development map.

Stage 5 *Identify the Significance of the Historic Landscape Character Types.*

The results of all stages of the assessment will also be used to evaluate the survival, condition and significance of the elements of the Historic Landscape, and if significant variation exists, a map illustrating this will be prepared to accompany the description of significance.

Stage 6 *Summarize impacts of the Route Options.* Pull together the impacts upon the Historic Landscape of the proposed route options, and indicate the preferred route option.

7 Sources and Bibliography

Abbreviations:

BAR	British Archaeological Report
CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CCC	Cornwall County Council
CRC	Cobham Resource Consultants
LDA	Landscape Design Associates
OA	Oxford Archaeology (previously OAU)
OAU	Oxford Archaeological Unit
RCHME	Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments for England (now English Heritage)
SWRC	Scott Wilson Resource Consultants

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