

## Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation (BCHLC)

### A GUIDE TO THE DATA AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD

The data available to download represents a simplified version of the database used between 2004 and 2010 to catalogue the area of the four Black Country local authorities of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. The Historic Landscape Characterisation is used as a dynamic part of the Historic Environment Record of the Black Country and, as such, is subject to amendment. The files available here represent a version of the database as it existed at the end of August 2010.

The methodology used to compile the database is explained in Section 2 of the report *The Black Country: An Historic Landscape Characterisation*, available at [http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/archive/blackcountry\\_hlc\\_2009](http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/archive/blackcountry_hlc_2009).

The database consists of a number of related files. The following four files constitute the 12,683 mapped polygons which form the geographic basis of the characterisation:

BlackCountryHLC20100831.shx  
BlackCountryHLC20100831.shp  
BlackCountryHLC20100831.dbf  
BlackCountryHLC20100831.prj

These polygons have each been given a unique identifier (contained in the data field HLCUID).

A Microsoft Access database contains four further related files which hold information about each of these polygons:

HLCLandscape2000 (12,683 records)  
HLCPreviousLandscape (25,432 records)  
HLCBroadTypes (13 records)  
HLCNarrowTypes (450 records)

The fields contain within these files are as follows:

<b>HLCLandscape2000</b>		
<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
HLCUID	text	the unique identification code for this piece of the landscape
BroadTypeCode	text	the code for the broad category of modern land use (in 2000)
HLCTypeCode	text	the code for the narrow category of modern land use (in 2000)
Confidence	text	the degree of confidence in the record of land use (certain/probable/possible)
Name	text	the name of the record
Summary	text	a summary of information about this piece of landscape
Description	memo	a summary of information about this piece of landscape
YearFrom	number	these represent the range of years between which the landscape is believed to have originated
YearTo	number	these represent the range of years between which the landscape is believed to have originated

<b>HLCPreviousLandscape</b>		
<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>

ID	number	an identifier for this record of previous use
HLCUID	text	the unique identification code for this piece of the landscape
BroadTypeCode	text	the code for the broad category of previous land use
HLCTypeCode	text	the code for the narrow category of previous land use
Confidence	text	the degree of confidence in the record of previous land use (certain/probable/possible)
Note	text	a brief note on this record
YearFrom	number	these represent the range of years between which the landscape is believed to have originated
YearTo	number	these represent the range of years between which the landscape is believed to have originated

<b>HLCBroadTypes</b>		
<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
BroadTypeCode	text	the code for the broad category of land use
BroadTypeDesc	text	the description of this category of land use
ScopeNote	text	the type of landscape to which this category applies

<b>HLCNarrowTypes</b>		
<b>FIELD NAME</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
HLCTypeCode	text	the code for the narrow category of land use
HLCTypeDesc	text	the description of this particular category of land use
GenericDesc	text	a general description of this category of land use
ScopeNote	text	the type of landscape to which this category applies

Finally, a further four files describe the boundaries of 51 areas of common landscape character. These encompass all of the polygons referred to above, and their creation is described in Section 4 of *The Black Country: An Historic Landscape Characterisation*:

BC\_CharacterAreas\_v8.shx  
 BC\_CharacterAreas\_v8.shp  
 BC\_CharacterAreas\_v8.dbf  
 BC\_CharacterAreas\_v8.prj

As mentioned above, these files together represent a simplified version of the BCHLC database. For fuller details please contact Wolverhampton City Council.

**Paul Quigley**

Landscape Archaeologist  
 Black Country Archaeology Service  
 Regeneration and Environment  
 Wolverhampton City Council  
 Civic Centre, St Peter's Square  
 Wolverhampton  
 WV1 1RP  
 t 01902 555493  
 e [paul.quigley@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:paul.quigley@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

