



# **The future of landscape characterisation and the future character of landscape**

Seminar 3-4 March 2014

The European Landscape Convention and Landscape  
Assessment.

Prof. Ingrid Sarlöv Herlin

Department of landscape Architecture, Planning and  
Management



# Content

- The European Landscape Convention
- The use of Landscape Characterisation methods as a base for assessing the landscape in the UK and Sweden





Our landscape is shaped by everything we undertake and exposed to many pressures and demands







Nature and culture are seen as opposites by planners and managers, in law, in designations & policy instruments, as well as by academics

“Landscape” has a weak role in legislation and policies. Landscape has been superseded by more tangible interests such as biodiversity or cultural heritage

**The nature-culture divide**

**WILDLIFE AREA**  
Rare flowers and grasses  
Please keep away from this area

**The Nine Ladies Stone Circle**  
Stanton Moor has been used as a resource for farming, wood and stone for thousands of years. Our ancestors recognised it as a special place. Four thousand years ago, in the Bronze Age, people settled here. People have used this special place as a site for funerals and ceremonies, farming, quarrying and recreation.



Nature and culture are seen as opposites by planners and managers, in law, in designations & policy instruments, as well as by academics

“Landscape” has a weak role in legislation and policies. Landscape has been superseded by more tangible interests such as biodiversity or cultural heritage

**The nature-culture divide**

**WILDLIFE AREA**  
Rare flowers and grasses  
Please keep away from this area

**The Nine Ladies Stone Circle**  
Stanton Moor has been used as a resource for farming, wood and stone for thousands of years. Our ancestors recognised it as a special place. Four thousand years ago, in the Bronze Age, people settled here. People have used this special place as a site for funerals and ceremonies, farming, quarrying and recreation.

## The nature-culture divide



# The European Landscape Convention (ELC)



- Opened for signature in Florence 2000
- promotes **'landscape'** as a **unifying concept** merging nature and culture ,
  - “A landscape forms a whole, whose natural and cultural components are taken together, not separately”

Aims to promote **protection, planning and management** of the landscape and to promote European cooperation on landscape issues.”

Requires a cooperation over different sectors.



# ELC is an agreement between memberstates of The Council of Europe



- 1949, Strasbourg, Intergovernmental organization.
- 47 countries - Different from the European Union
- Was founded to:
- Defend human rights, parliamentary democracy and legal systems
- Increase the consciousness on European identity
- Provide knowledge on human rights, local democracy, education , culture and environment

# The European Landscape Convention:

- “Landscape is the frame of everyone’s daily lives, a tool for working towards sustainable development”
- ELC encompasses all areas, **rural and urban, urban fringe and natural areas, lakes, rivers, and oceans, outstanding areas and areas under decline**

*“the landscape can be changed”*

*“ the landscape creates individual and social wellbeing and is a concern for everyone”*

*“ The landscape is important for the economy and jobs ; for the identity, nature and cultural heritage”*



- the landscape convention defines the word **landscape** as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors"





# The ELC



- Currently in force in 38 of the Council of Europe's 47 member states
- 2 have signed only; Iceland & Malta
- 7 have done nothing; Albania , Austria, Estonia, Germany, Liechtenstein , Monaco and Russia

# Sweden

- Signature in 2001
- Ratification 2011
- A special coordination group with National Governmental agencies  
**Riksantikvarieämbetet**

**Boverket,  
Naturvårdsverket,  
Jordbruksverket,  
Skogsstyrelsen,  
Trafikverket,  
Tillväxtverket**





- Some other issues brought up by the ELC are;
  - to introduce landscape in national laws and planning polies
  - to introduce procedures for participation
  - to promote education and awareness about landscapes

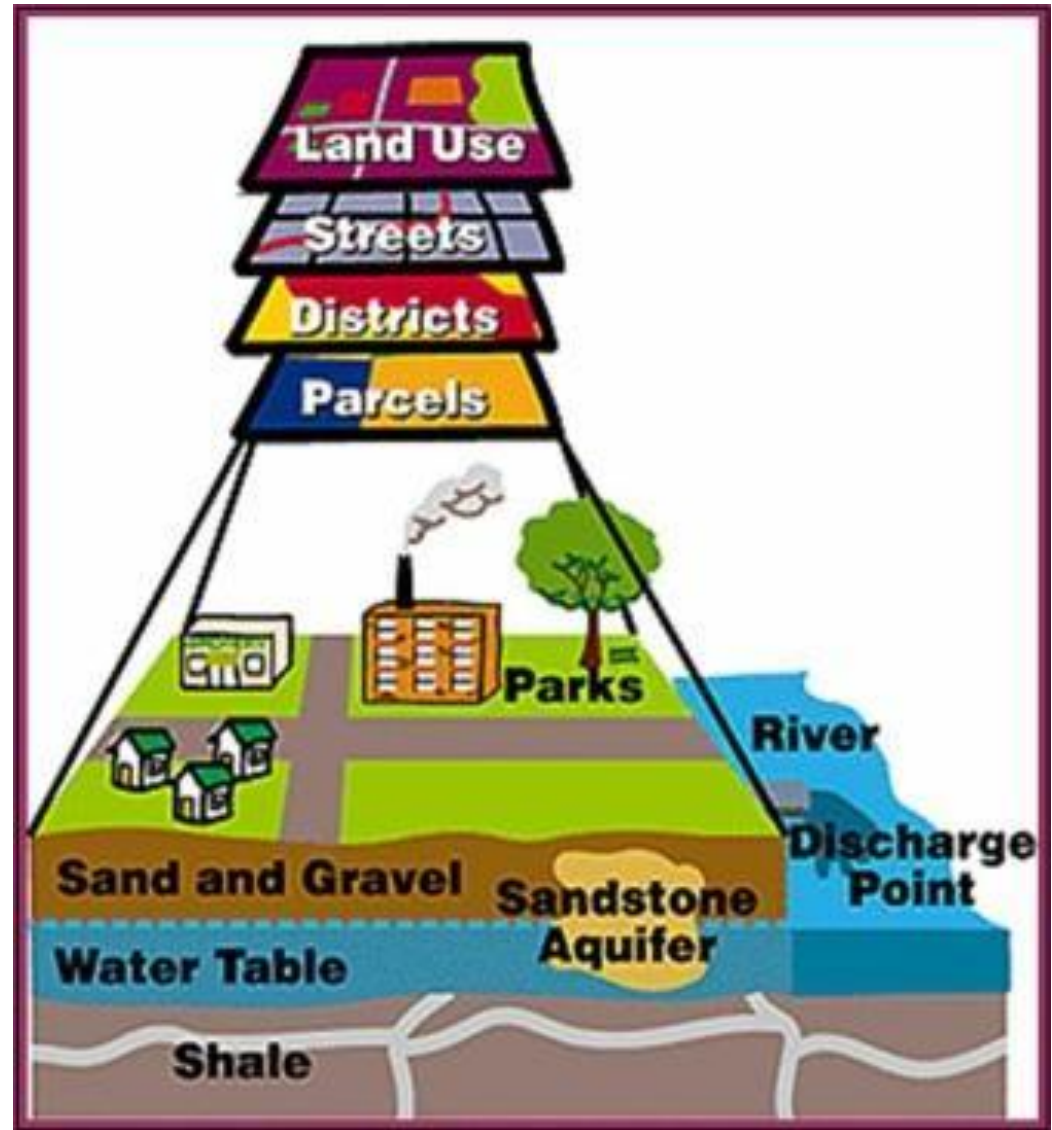


- Countries that have ELC take on to “**identify** their own landscapes throughout its territory; to **analyse** their **characteristics** and the forces and pressures transforming them; and to take note of changes”. They also undertake to “assess landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by interested parties and the population” (COE 2000, ELC, Article 6C.)
- Landscape character type of analyses in Sweden in Sweden, since the 70’s





- We have many ways to map and analyse the physical environment but how can we try to characterise the “landscape as perceived by people”?



<http://gscplanning.com/gis.htm>

- Methods to identify and map character have been applied in England and Scotland since the 1970's
- In the early 1990s, methods for characterising landscape began to be developed – many other countries have looked to these for inspiration
- There are many different other European approaches



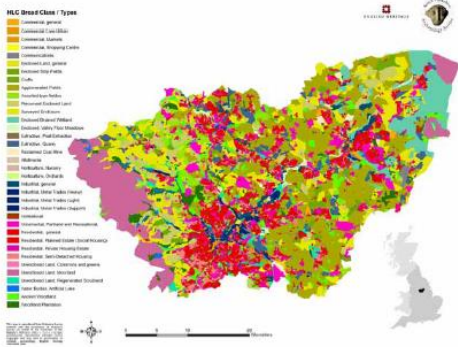


Two main methods in England: **Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)** and **Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)**



# LCA

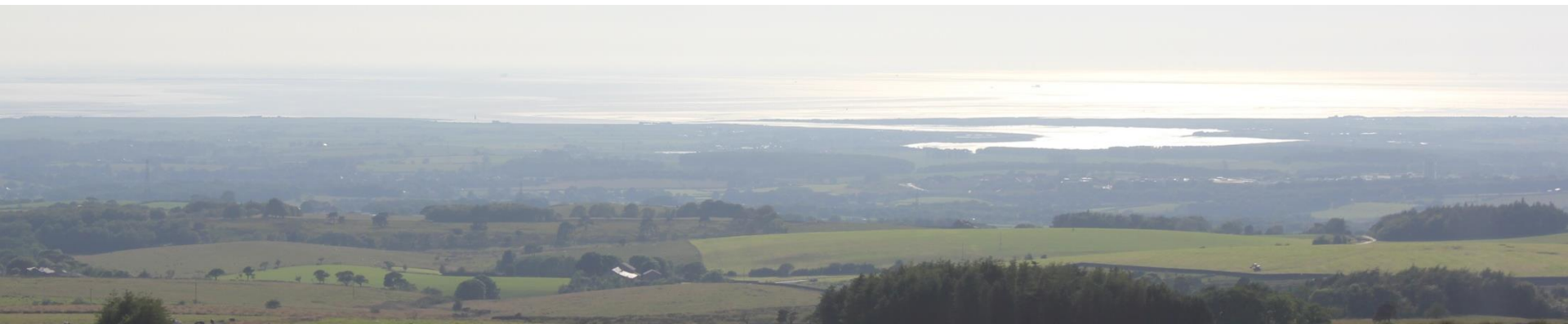
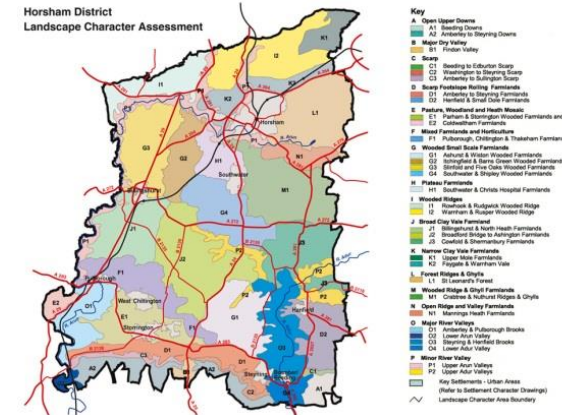
- A basis for landscape planning and management, spatial planning and other policy
  - Two separate methods for the historical and the present day dimensions of landscape is resulting from disciplinary differences dividing the landscape field



## HLC

# Landscape character

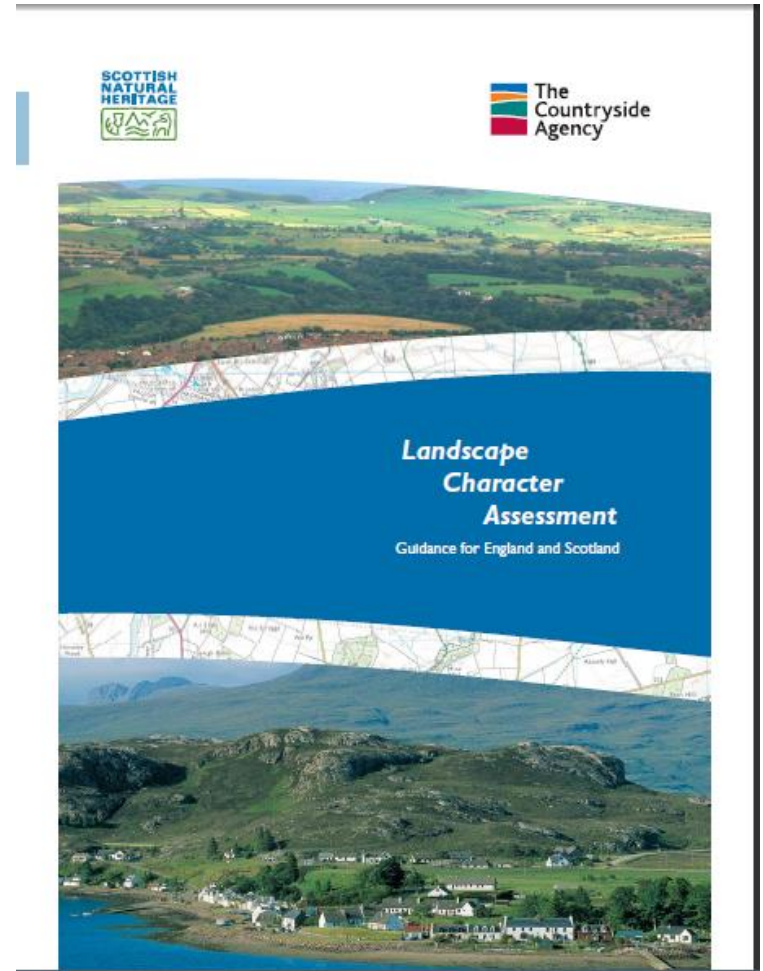
- 'a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse'
- and how these are perceived by humans
- reflect combinations of geology, land formation, soil, vegetation, land use and settlements, and the idea of landscape as human perception
- although theoretically repeatable by other practitioners, there is subjectivity in the methods



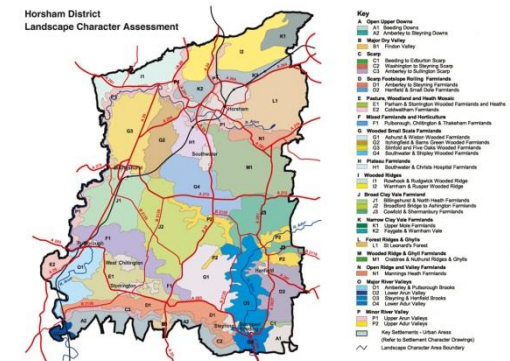
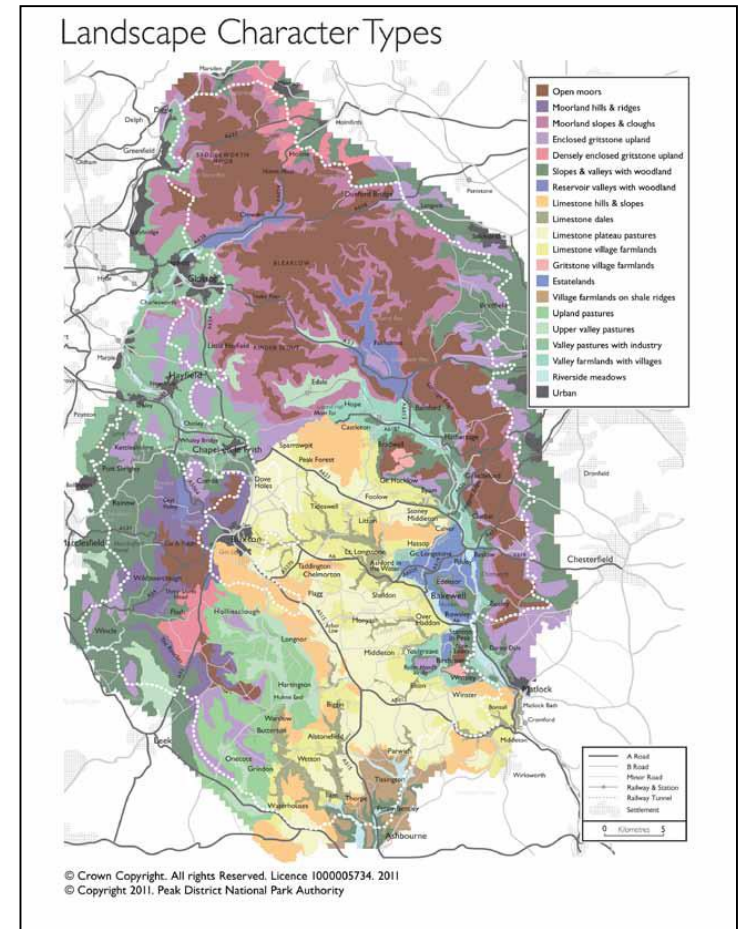


Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is an approach to understand the differences between landscapes:

- a way of 'unpacking' the landscape
- and understanding how its distinctive elements contribute to sense of place and local distinctiveness.
- a tool for engaging stakeholders.



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



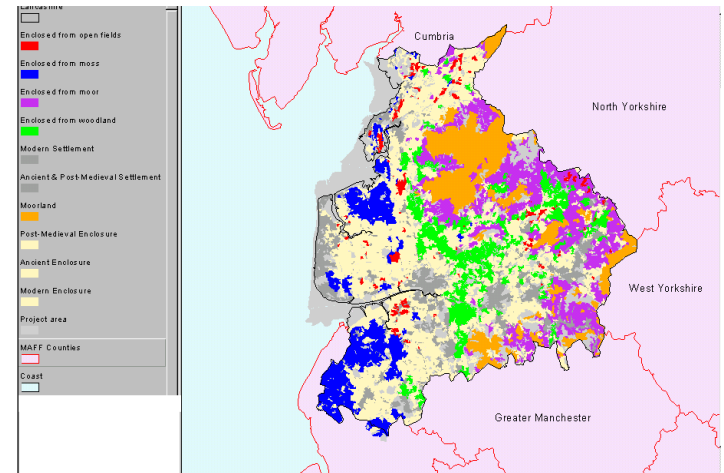


- Local Landscape Character assessments are guiding planning decisions on the siting of new buildings, wind turbines, forestry plantations or other new elements in the landscape
- Also guiding the use of resources and agri-environmental management



# Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

- First developed at English Heritage 1992 - 1994 to identify, describe and analyse the different patterns of the historical landscape
  - A criticism was that LCA is largely based on the visual properties and does not take account of the historical processes shaping the landscape





# Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC);

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



## Landscape Character **Types**

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

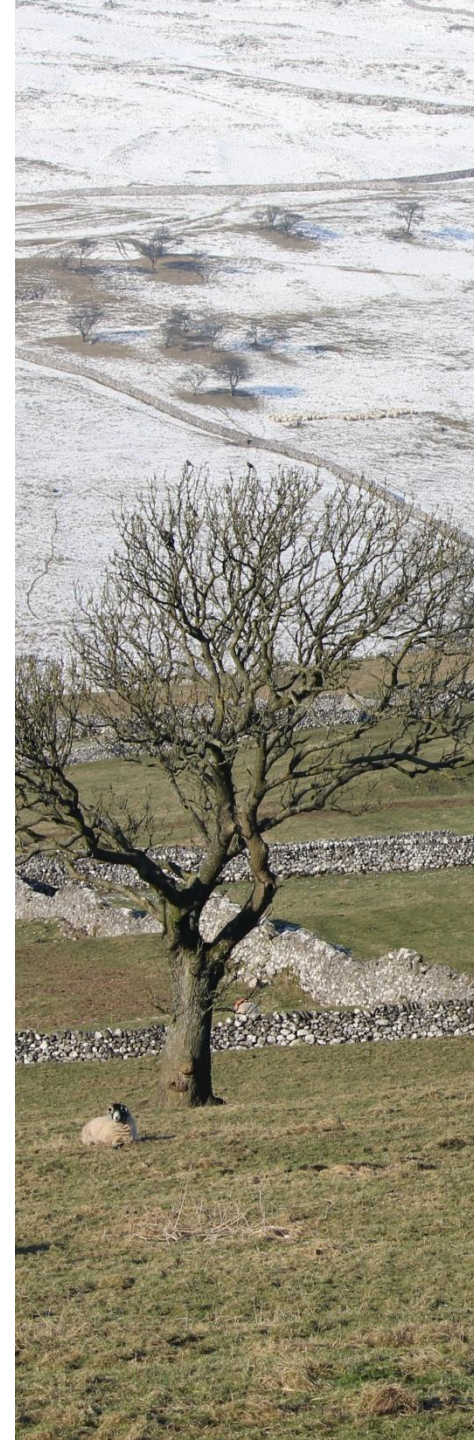
## Landscape Character **Areas**

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



# Key aspects of LCA – and of HLC

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



- LCA and HLC were initially used as support for experts
  - could also function as a tool to engage the public and stakeholders in management and development of an area
- Local participants could contribute to improving LCA and HLC;
  - convey valuable information that otherwise might not have come up, information that is unique to one area and considered locally important

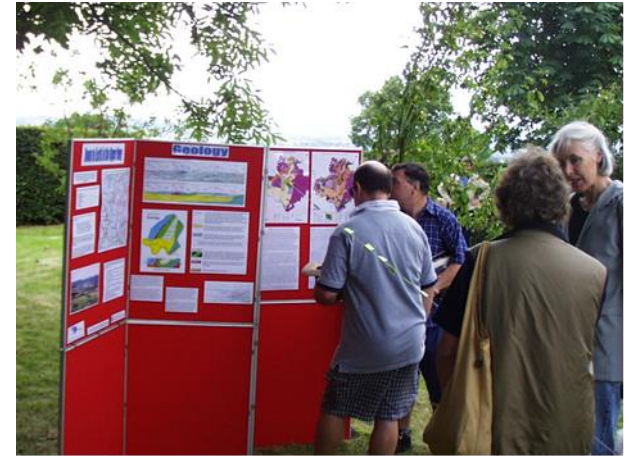


Photo A. Wigley



# Det skånska landsbygdsprogrammet 2006 (Ole Reiter)

## INNEHÅLLSFÖRTECKNING

Introduktion .....	6
Landskapskaraktärsanalys – metod och resultat .....	8
Rapportens beskrivande delar samt slutsatser och riktlinjer .....	14

## LÅGLÄNT LANDSKAP .....

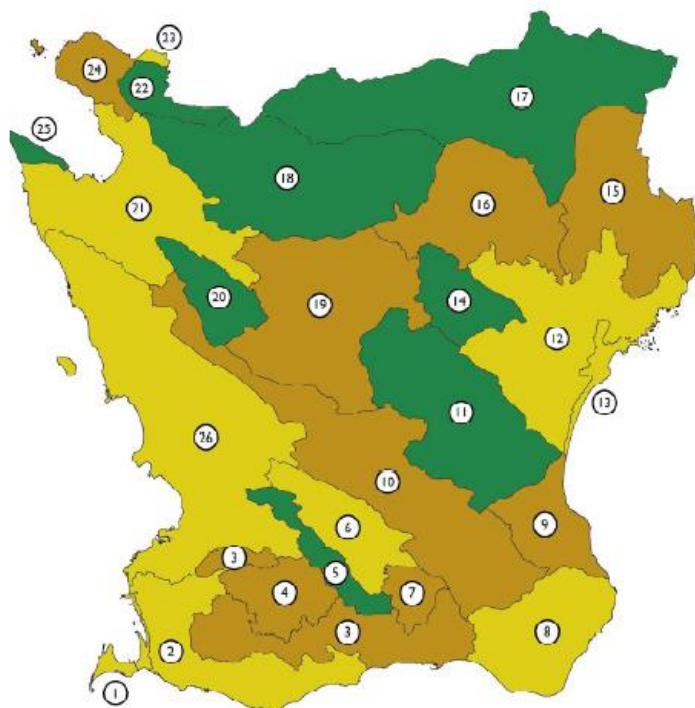
Kustslätt/dynlandskap .....	21
① Slanör – Falsterbo strand .....	22
⑬ Åhus dynområde .....	30
Låglänt odlingslandskap .....	39
② Söderslätt .....	40
⑧ Österslätten .....	48
⑫ Lund- Helsingborgslätt .....	56
⑪ Ängelholm-slätten .....	64
⑫ Kristianstadslätt .....	72
⑫ Laholmslätten .....	80
Låglänt dallandskap .....	88
⑥ Vombsjökan .....	88

## BACKLANDSKAP .....

Mosaikartat, odlat backlandskap .....	97
⑩ Södra mellanbygden .....	98
⑫ Bjärehalvön .....	106
③ Sydsånska backlandskapet .....	114
Mosaikartat skogsbacklandskap .....	123
⑮ Gönge mellanbygd .....	124
⑮ Centrala mellanbygden .....	132
④ Sydsånska skogsbeklädda backlandskapet .....	140
⑨ Östersånska backlandskapet .....	148
⑦ Sövedsjö – Kragelholmsjöns godslandskap .....	156
Sjö- och åslandskapet .....	164
⑮ Slånes sprick och sjölandskap .....	164

## HÖGLÄNT LANDSKAP .....

Mosaikartat brukat åslandskap .....	174
⑤ Romelåsen .....	174
Mosaikartat skogsklädt åslandskap .....	183
⑪ Linderödssåsen .....	184
⑫ Söderåsåsen .....	192
⑫ Hallandsåsen .....	200
⑫ Nävlingåsen .....	208
⑫ Kullaberg .....	216
Skogsklätt, kuperat höglänt landskap .....	225
⑫ Nordsånska skogsbygden .....	226
⑫ Nordsånska furuskogsbygden .....	234

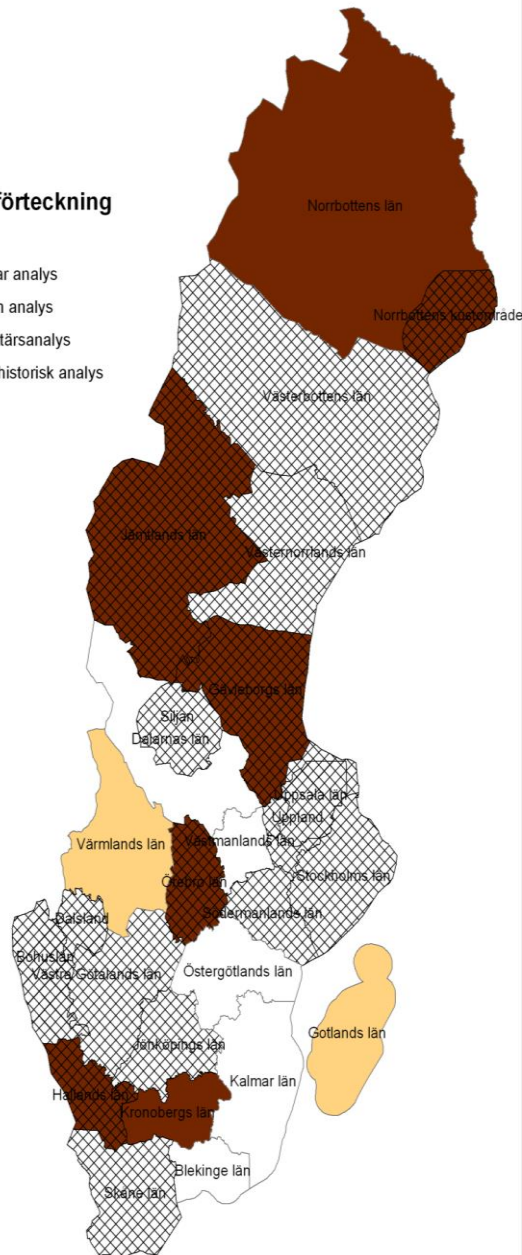


# Compilation of regional landscape analysis based on type.

## Innehållsförteckning

### Analys

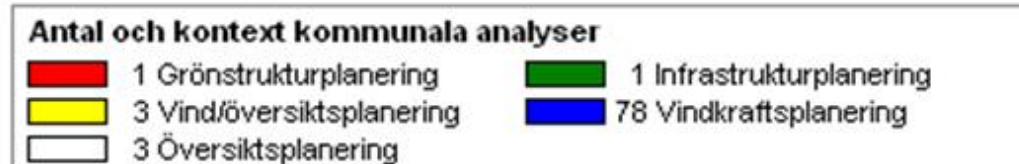
- Saknar analys
- Annan analys
- Karaktärsanalys
- Agrarhistorisk analys



From; Inventering av  
genomförda karaktärsanalyser  
Jenny Nord, Boel Persson &  
Ingrid Sarlöv Herlin  
Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Rapport 2012:3  
Alnarp 2012



From; Inventering av  
genomförda  
karaktärsanalyser  
Jenny Nord, Boel  
Persson & Ingrid Sarlöv  
Herlin  
Sveriges  
lantbruksuniversitet  
Rapport 2012:3  
Alnarp 2012



**Pie chart describing the context for the 86 municipal character analyses**

## Different countries and contexts

Differences in politics, legislation, planning policies, agricultural policies, history, traditions and languages that provide different conditions for landscape planning and policy making on the national level and below

**SWEDEN; 22**  
people per square  
km.

Same international  
conventions, EU directives  
and Agricultural Policy;  
similar climate, much in  
common in culture



**UK. 246 people**  
per square km.

England 383 people per  
sq. km,  
Wales, 142 people per  
sq. km,  
Northern Ireland 125  
people per sq. km,  
Scotland 65 people per  
sq. km,

Google™ Den här sidan är på svenska. Ska den översättas med Google Verktögsfält? [Läs mer](#) Inte på svenska? [Hjälp oss att bli bättre](#)

# LANDSKAPSOBSERVATORIUM

FÖR ÖKAD KUNSKAP OCH DIALOG MELLAN LANDSKAPETS AKTÖRER



## Spelet om den stadsnära landsbygden

ARTIKEL Den stadsnära landsbygden är en outnyttjad potential i arbetet för en hållbar utveckling. Vid Birmingham City University har spelet Rufopoly utvecklats för att öka förståelsen för den komplexitet som kännetecknar stadsranden, och för att möjliggöra en dialog bortom tidigare låsta positioner. Artikeln introducerar spelet och det Leader-projekt som kommer att pröva Rufopolys användbarhet i Sverige under 2014.

Skriven av [Mattias Qviström](#)  
2014-02-13 08:56

[Läs mer »](#)



# Differences between UK and Sweden is in the history of landscape/nature management

## UK

- Earlier urbanization due to the industrial revolution
- Limited area of accessible land
- The national park designation in the UK (1949) was embedded the narrative of the late 19th and early 20th centuries' movement for public access to land for outdoor activities:
- A longer history of integration between different sectors in landscape management, involving a wide range of stakeholders
- National parks are Protected Landscapes/Seascape (IUCN cat IV) - promoting interactions with humans through traditional management practices.

## Sweden

- Shorter history of urbanisation
- Right to Public Access,
- A more American influenced movement for Wild Nature; the first national park in 1909, ideas about nature conservation dominated the policy and legalisation
- Landscape management has traditionally been top-down divided between the different sectors" of culture and nature
- National parks (IUCN cat II) are large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes

- Using the 'British' approach in other countries, requires adaptations to different types of landscape, different needs and different cultural approaches to 'landscape'



# Points for discussion;

- **Is the use of the British Methods reinforcing standardised European landscape ideals?**
- **Are these methods reinforcing landscape contrasts, i.e. socio-economic?**
- **What about a changing landscape as an asset?**
- **“Clear and transparent criteria are good for discussions about what is valuable in the landscape! We do need such methods for the interest of landscape, and not at least as a fuel for landscape dialogues !”**



- *This seminar has been based on a research project at SLU called; “Landscape Diversity and The Nature/Culture Divide: Landscape Character Analysis, Designated Reserves Areas and the Problem of “Scalar Insularity” in Spatial Planning”. FORMAS research council. (Olwig, Sarlöv Herlin, Stenseke).*
- *Thanks to LRG, KSLA, FORMAS, and SLU*

Thank you!

