

Landscape Character Assessment

What Is It?

Survey of the county landscapes

For what purpose?

To analyse and define character

Says Who?

Planning and Development Act 2000

Applications

To provide a basis for the County Policy on

- Landscape protection
- Planning and development
- Management of land uses: Forestry, Agriculture and Renewable Energy

Not the focus for today !!!

Landscape Character Assessment

An objective and unbiased assessment of the County Landscapes to define their character, in particular,

Landscape Character Types

Distinct types of landscape which are generic in nature
e.g. Farmed Lakelands



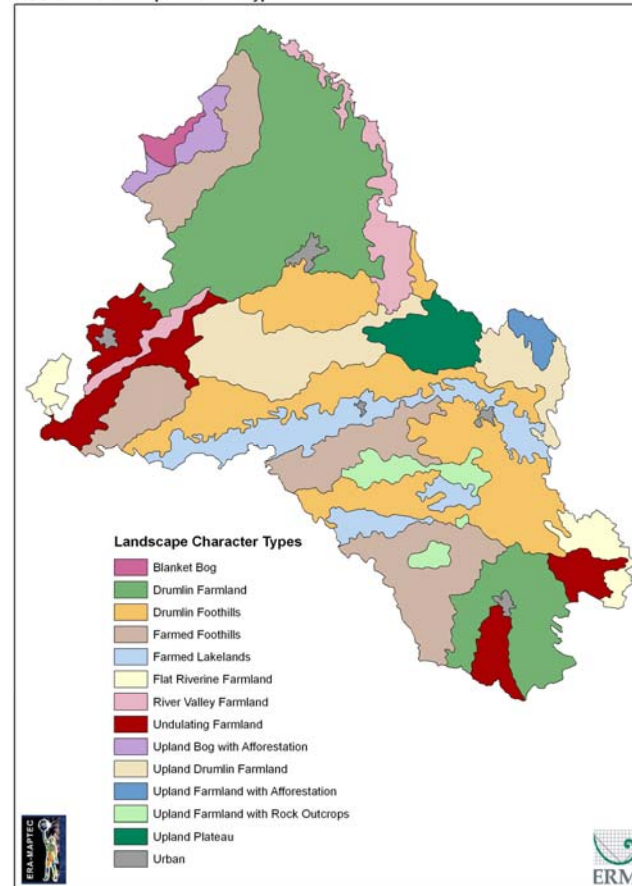
Landscape Character Areas

Geographically specific parcels of landscape that carry characteristics that are unique to the area *e.g. Mullyash uplands*

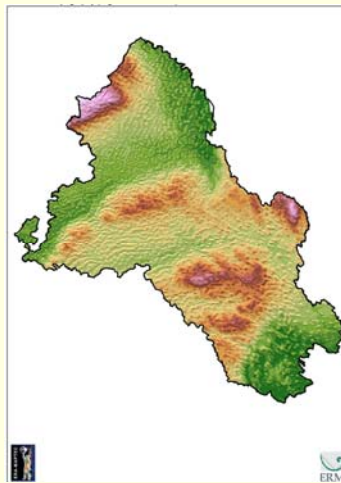


County Monaghan – Landscape Character Types

FIGURE 7b: Landscape Character Types



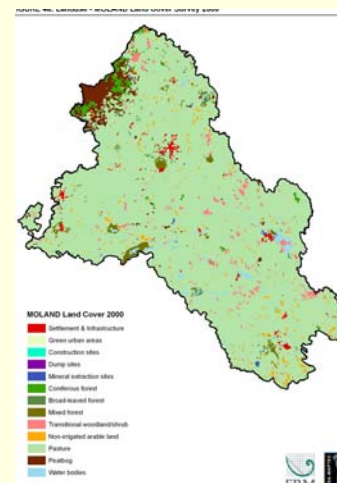
Landscape Character Types – are identified on the basis of analysis of datasets concerning natural characteristics and processes. These are generic in nature and homogenous in character e.g **Farmed Lakelands**.



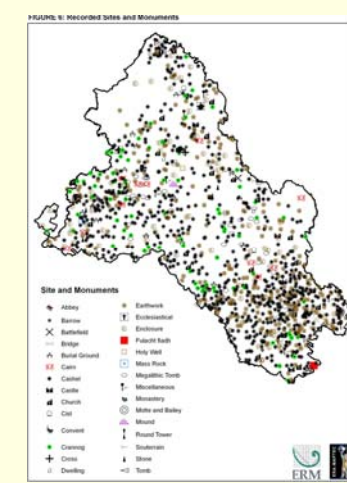
Topography



Geology



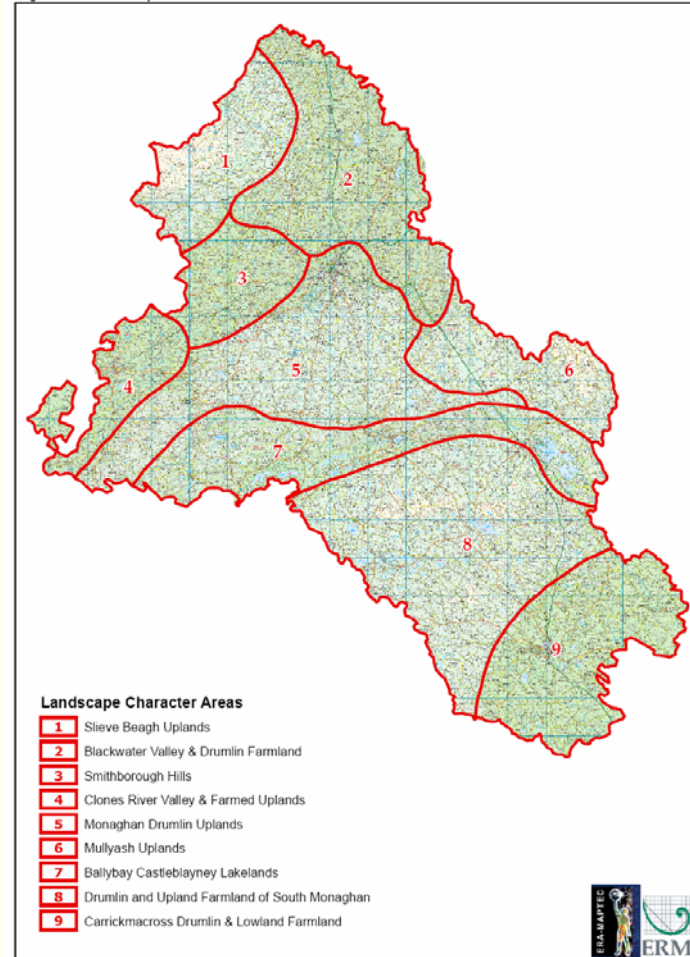
Landuse



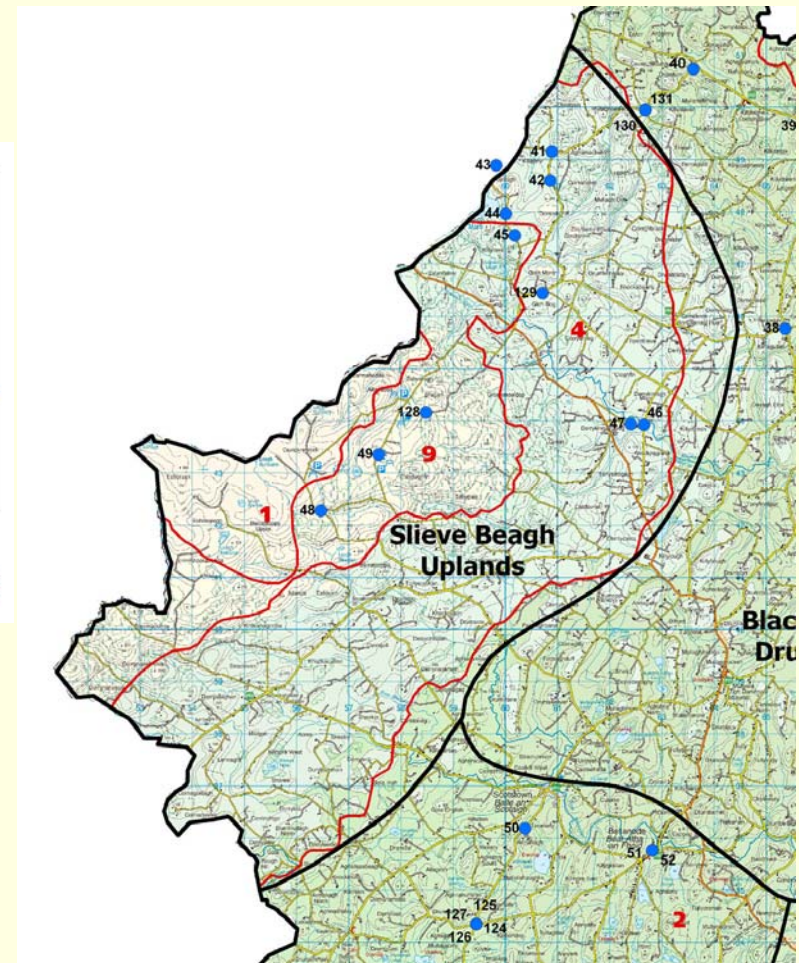
Heritage

County Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

Figure 8: Landscape Character Areas



Landscape Character Areas – are discrete geographically specific areas often reflecting a particular type – e.g. **Slieve Beagh Uplands**.



Slieve Beagh Uplands LCA .

LCTs

1. Blanket Bog
4. Farmed Foothills
9. Upland Bog with Afforestation

Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

LCA 1. Sliabh Beagh Uplands

Key Characteristics

Remote, isolated and semi wild setting at highest elevations.

Vast open peatland moorland landscape

Presence of very large areas of commercial coniferous forestry

Occasional loughs located in the upland peatland landscape.

Rivers include the Mountain Water and Blackwater

Traditional farmhouses present, some of which are derelict.

Long ranging views



Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

LCA 2. Blackwater Valley and Drumlin Farmland

Key Characteristics

Flat marshy areas and river corridors including the flat marshy vale and floodplain of the River Blackwater

Relatively low lying drumlin farmland given over to pastoral uses and maintained in good condition.

Neatly cut hedgerow as field boundaries featuring frequent mature hedge trees of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)

Isolated clumps of deciduous woodland. Occasional loughs some of which contain Crannogs.

Attractive and well maintained villages featuring limestone buildings. These include the villages of Emyvale, Tullyree and Glaslough.

Stone walled boundaries present as remnants of former estates, demesnes and larger Georgian Dwellings. Significant demesnes or designed landscapes include Castle Leslie and the Castleshane Demesne.



Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

LCA 3. Smithborough Hills

Key Characteristics

Low lying landscape featuring undulating topography and low drumlin hills.

Numerous small to medium sized loughs many of which contain crannogs.

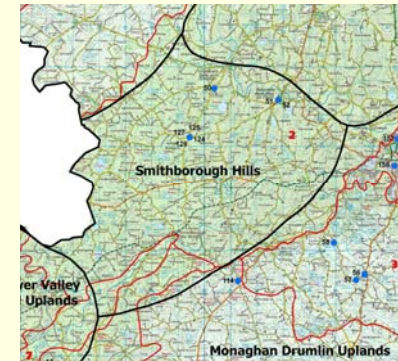
Small river tributaries and streams including the River Finn and the River Blackwater

Occasional clumps of deciduous woodland

Settlements of Smithborough, Scotstown and Bellanode.

Extensive network of tertiary roads

River Blackwater flows through this landscape character area, from north west to south east through the village of Bellanode.



Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

LCA 4. Clones River Valley and Farmed Uplands

Key Characteristics

This is a low lying undulating farmed landscape comprising a series of low rolling hills. To the south west of Clones, the terrain becomes noticeably flatter owing to the influence of the substantial Lough Erne lake system in the adjacent County of Fermanagh.

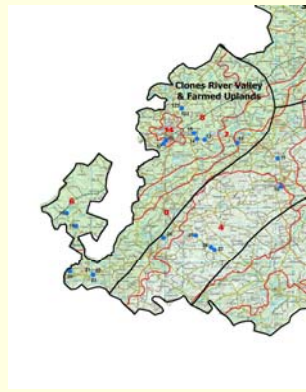
Pastoral landscape pattern is reinforced with hedgerows containing occasional hedgetrees.

The River Finn is the principal watercourse extending from the north east to the south west. Occasional small loughs are also dispersed throughout this landscape.

Remnants of an industrial past include the disused Ulster Canal which extends from the north east towards Clones. Also a dismantled railway line extends from Clones towards Newbliss. The Black Pig's Dyke is also located near the southern County boundary.

Designed landscapes include the Hilton Demesne which contains mature deciduous woodland, loughs and streams.

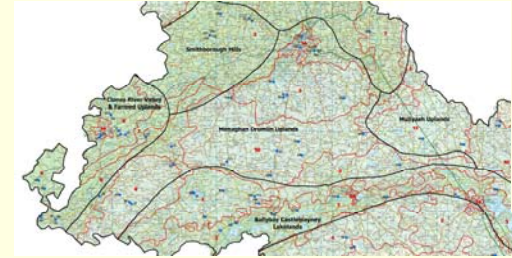
National and regional road routes feature in this landscape linking the towns of Clones and Newbliss to Monaghan.



Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

LCA 5. Monaghan Drumlin Uplands

Key Characteristics



Elevated landscape featuring drumlin hills and small to medium sized loughs. These drumlins are not so steep sided and they do not follow a particular strong alignment and as such, the pattern of glaciation is not very pronounced.

Occasional rock outcrops on the eastern side near the townland of Annyalla.

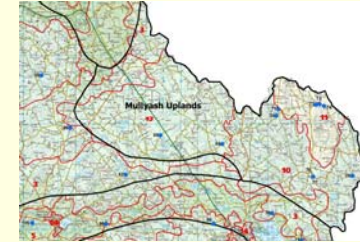
Occasional loughs and areas of marshland located between drumlin hills. Landuses mostly given over to pastoral farming. Hedgerows featuring native species define the field boundaries, some of these are cut and some are not cut or managed. Hedge trees are fairly frequent.

Long ranging views to the south and the north can be gained at particular points along the highest elevations of this ridgeline. The views extend for many kilometres.



Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

LCA 6. Mullyash Uplands



Key Characteristics

A variable topography comprising a flat plateau area in the western part of this LCA which extends eastward towards the drumlin foothills leading to the summit of Mullyash Mountain.

Drumlins in this LCA are steep sided and are strongly aligned in a north west to south east orientation thereby reflecting the direction of ice flow during the ice ages.

Loughs and watercourses are almost absent from this landscape apart from a larger lough featuring a crannog near Drumleck.

Landscape pattern is strongly defined as small to medium scale pastoral fields bounded by cut hedgerows with occasional mature trees. This pattern is obliterated and replaced with solid coniferous forest at Mullyash

Large tracts of commercial coniferous forestry are present and reach up to the summit of Mullyash Mountain. Long range views towards this Mountain can be gained from many locations.

Views of the Mourne Mountains can be gained from the eastern side of Mullyash Mountain.



Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

LCA 7. Ballybay Castleblayney Lakelands

Key Characteristics

Low lying pastoral landscape with frequent widely spaced drumlins.

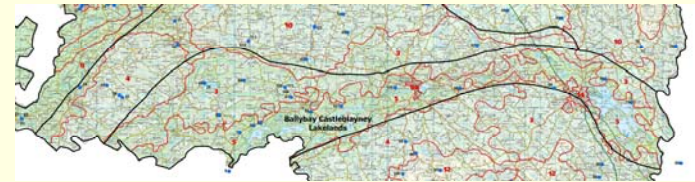
Numerous loughs, some of which are substantial in size and are among the largest in the County.

Regional road route follows the line of the low lying channel in an east west orientation and links the towns of Ballybay and Castleblayney.

Rivers and smaller watercourses follow an east west orientation and frequently link the loughs.

Scattered designed landscapes include the Fairfield demesne and Dartrey House.

Remnants of the industrial past include a dismantled railway line which extends across the landscape from Cootehill (outside the county) to Castleblayney and thereafter extending northwards.



Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

LCA 8. Drumlin and Upland Farmland of South Monaghan

Key Characteristics

An elevated landscape containing drumlin hills that are given over to pastoral uses. Strong field pattern evident as defined by hedgerow boundaries

Areas of rock outcrops are present at the highest elevations. These areas feature more impoverished pasture. Field boundary pattern is broken or lost in these locations.

Plenty of clumps of gorse located in the higher more impoverished areas.

Frequent medium to large sized loughs, the largest being Lough Egish.

The Clarebane River which flows out of Lough Muckno is aligned with the County Boundary.

Long range views can be gained from the more elevated parts of this landscape towards adjacent low lying areas to the north.

No major settlements. Extensive regional and minor road system.



Monaghan – Landscape Character Areas

LCA 9. Carrickmacross Drumlin and Lowland Farmland

Key Characteristics

Topographically, this landscape comprises a mixture of undulating farmland and low lying drumlins. The drumlins are more strongly aligned in an north west-south east orientation in the northern half of this character area.

The River Fane flows in the same orientation as the strongly aligned drumlin groups and flows through the town of Iniskeen on the eastern side of the County.

Frequent loughs are located in this landscape and range from small to medium in size. Some of these feature crannogs.

Large areas of mature deciduous woodland are located to the south of Carrickmacross. Occasional clumps of mature deciduous woodland are located throughout.

Coniferous forestry plantations are located in this character area including one particularly large plantation located to the south.

Intact hedgerow pattern comprising a mix of managed and unmanaged hedgerows.

Remnants of industrial heritage in the form of a dismantled railway line are present.

Carrickmacross is the principal settlement.

