



The Heritage Council's 2006 LCA Evaluation Report found that 68% of heritage officers, planners and consultants in Ireland had no formal training in Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). As a result the All-Island Multi-Disciplinary 'Pilot' LCA CPD Training Programme has been developed in accordance with Article 6b – Training and Education, of the European Landscape Convention (ELC).

The LCA training course focuses on the following core elements, all of which are designed to improve the skills and expertise available within the profession.

- Introduction to the concept of Landscape Character Assessment, underlying principles, concepts and terminology, uses of LCA, including but not limited to planning and development
- Geology and geomorphology in Ireland; Irish habitat types and mapping; IT and landscape – GIS
- Historic Landscape and Townscape Characterisation (HLC) – introduction to the philosophy and rationale underpinning HLC, how HLC contrasts/complements LCA, evolution of HLC in Ireland
- LCA in practice – a review of the County Clare LCA
- Public participation as part of the overall LCA process
- Using LCA in forward planning and development management – other uses include forestry, agri-environment planning and tourism development

### Partners

The Heritage Council developed this all-island training initiative in partnership with Engineers Ireland (EI), Irish Archaeological Institute (IAI), the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM), Irish Landscape Institute (ILI), Irish Planning Institute (IPI), the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia is also a key EU project partner.



*The diverse character of the Irish landscape*



## Aims and objectives

- To raise awareness within the partner groups of the key tenets of the European Landscape Convention (ELC)
- To raise awareness within the professional institutes and other partners of the key principles and elements of landscape character assessment (including Historic Landscape Characterisation and its wide-ranging uses and benefits across many sectors of society, including but not limited to planning)
- To strengthen and deepen links between the Heritage Council and Executive and members of the other partner groups – EI, IAI, IEEM, ILI, IPI, Landscape Observatory of Catalonia, the RIAI and RTPI
- To examine and enhance understanding of the unique contribution that landscape makes to the formation of local cultures, natural and cultural heritage and human well-being/quality of life
- To enhance understanding of procedures and available tools that encourage participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of landscape policies
- To support the use of GIS within the Irish planning system
- To build long-term partnerships with Universities in Ireland and the UK that provide landscape management courses; and to develop a North-South 'pilot' landscape-management training module project, in accordance with the main provisions of the NDP 2007-2013

## Required outcomes and benchmarking

By 2011, the group surveyed in 2006 without LCA training will have been reduced by 20% to 48%. It is intended that the number with training will be further increased to 72% by 2014.

## Budget

€35,000 over three years (2009-2011). Funding support for the training programme will also be sought from the EU in 2010.

## Implementation

The all-island multi-disciplinary landscape training programme will be implemented by the partners during 2009-2011. For example, the first 'post-pilot' training event will be delivered in September 2009. It is also intended that formal recognition for the landscape CPD training module will be sought from the European Union in early 2010 (along with funding). It is envisaged that intermediate and advanced landscape training courses will be developed by the partners in 2010 and 2011.

## Professional awards

The all-island multi-disciplinary LCA CPD training course will be rolled out from September 2009 onwards, for three years. It is proposed that the Multi-Disciplinary Landscape CPD Training Programme will be entered into the Taoiseach's Awards in late 2009 along with the relevant professional institute awards, e.g., Irish Planning Institute (IPI) Awards 2009.

## Related publications/articles

An article on the conception, design, and development of the Multi-Disciplinary LCA CPD Training Course will appear in *Heritage Outlook* and the *Landscape Character Network* magazine in autumn/winter 2009.

## Details of programme evaluation

The 'Pilot' LCA CPD training course that was delivered in Clare in May 2009 was externally evaluated by Professor Carys Swanwick, University of Sheffield, and George Lambrick, consultant archaeologist. Recommendations raised by the external evaluators have been implemented during the summer of 2009 and will be included in the LCA CPD training course that will be delivered by the Heritage Council and its partners from September 2009 onwards. The landscape CPD training programme will be externally evaluated in 2011.

## Contact

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2009 Irish Landscape Conference

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