

**Project Title: Carlingford and Derry - A Tale of Two Historic Irish Walled Towns:
Emerging Cross-Border Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisation
Study**



Project Description: The Cross-Border Historic landscape and seascape characterisation (HLC) study, which involves 15 partner groups, aims to raise public awareness and encourage understanding and appreciation of the ‘*international significance*’ of the unique cultural and historic landscapes and seascapes surrounding and encompassing the historic Walled Towns of Derry and Carlingford. ‘Historic Landscape/Seascape Characterisation’, using a highly sophisticated geographical information system (GIS), is an innovative tool for managing change in the historic landscape and is a primary vehicle for achieving the goals of the *European Landscape Convention* (ELC). Ireland signed and ratified the ELC in March 2002 and the United Kingdom signed on the 21st February 2006.

This HLC Study aims to explore the intangibles of our historic landscape, such as cultural and psychological perceptions and historical associations; including the way in which our ‘historic landscape’ embraces and impacts on our overall sense of belonging/civic pride or alienation and strangeness. The study will explore how the historic landscapes in the two study areas have been characterised and enriched by centuries of human activity and change, i.e. the ‘*time-depth*’ of the historic cross-border landscape. The proposed study areas are illustrated in *Appendices A and B*.

The challenge is to address how *change management* can sensitively respect local character and diversity. HLC can be used to inform a range of applications, including:

- Landscape management –HLC can inform the roll-out of agri-environment schemes including REPS, Forestry Initiatives, etc;
- Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and strategies – HLC can be used to define, understand and describe Landscape Character Assessment types and to inform Landscape Strategies and management at regional, county and local level, e.g. designation of Landscape Conservation Areas and National Parks. This project would be undertaken, with the explicit aim of also looking at how the results could be applied to HLC as a component of Landscape Characterisation at a national level. It could include a review of HLC work to date, establishing parameters for best practice, etc;
- SEA – HLC is a useful ‘layer’ in the preparation of robust SEAs for regional, county and local planning and development guidelines and plans guiding development in the border area.
- Spatial planning – using HLC to inform new planning and development policy in the cross-border area including policies on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, as well as to advise on planning applications and hedgerow applications;
- Tourism and Heritage Strategies – HLC provides a useful and innovative ‘*baseline*’ for the formulation of strategies, which exploit the unique selling point (USP) of the area in terms of tourism and heritage. The USP can also assist with ‘branding’ of the area and its agricultural products;
- Partnership, learning and outreach – HLC information can be provided in a variety of format (reports, mapping, internet and CD ROM), helping to raise awareness and understanding of the historic landscape in the border area. The project will also be aimed at building capacity in terms of educating and training people to carry out HLC effectively, efficiently and to the same criteria and standards.

Project Elements: At this stage of the conception phase, it is envisaged that the study will involve thirteen main work packages, as follows:

- 1 Project Management and Quality Assurance;
- 2 Legislative and Planning Context Review (International, European, National, Regional and Local);
- 3 Desk-Top Review (Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), Record of Protected Structures (RPS), etc.);
- 4 Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Mapping on GIS;
- 5 Testing of GIS;
- 6 Formulation of Draft HLC Themes and Strategies including Tourism and Heritage Strategies, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Social Enterprises, SEA, Education Programme, etc.
- 7 Community Consultation and Meetings – Establishing ‘Value’ (Cultural, spiritual, psychological, economic, etc.) of the Cross-Border Historic Landscape;
- 8 Assessment of needs for enhanced management, protection and promotion of the historic landscapes and seascapes within the two study areas;
- 9 Finalisation of HLC Themes and Strategies including Tourism and Heritage Strategies, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Social Enterprises, SEA, Education Programme, etc;
- 10 Launch and PR (e.g. European Heritage Days, National Heritage Week (Republic of Ireland);
- 11 Implementation of Education and Training Programmes at UU, UCD, LIT, DkIT;
- 12 On-going promotion and sustainable use of the study project findings; and
- 13 Establishment of multi-level and inter-agency mechanisms to promote, enhance and manage these unique areas for the benefit of existing and future generations.

Project Benefits: The HLC study will inform the sustainable management and promotion of our dynamic historic landscapes, as well as providing the overarching strategic context for the formulation of spatial plans and strategic environmental assessment (SEA), integrated coastal zone management, heritage and tourism strategies and initiatives (including the development of social enterprises) in the border area, e.g. in England HLC is used by DEFRA to promote the development of niche agricultural products.

The study will also inform the potential designation of protected areas within the cross-border area. Michael has been discussing with Chris O’Grady the long term benefits of designating protected areas on a trans-boundary basis.

The HLC study will also form the basis of a joint landscape education programme (undergraduate and postgraduate) between University College Dublin (UCD, Department of Archaeology) and Ulster University (UU, Department of Marine Archaeology at Coleraine). In addition, a joint tourism and heritage management course will be developed and provided by Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Dundalk Institute of Technology.

This joint education and training initiative meets the wider goals of the ELC whilst creating opportunities for the development of a new historic landscape characterisation and assessment profession in Ireland. (This innovative all-island, landscape education programme would follow on from the ecology and environmental management education programme, which was introduced in Ireland and the United Kingdom as a result of the *EU EIA Directive 85/337/EEC*.)

Project Partners: The 15 partner groups involved in the design and implementation of the project are, as follows:

1. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government;
2. The Heritage Council of Ireland;
3. Environment and Heritage Service Northern Ireland (EHS NI);
4. Donegal County Council;
5. Derry City Council;
6. Dundalk Institute of Technology;
7. English Heritage (Quality Assurance – Peer Review);
8. Fáilte Ireland;
9. Letterkenny Institute of Technology;
10. Limavady Borough Council;
11. Strabane District Council;
12. Louth County Council;

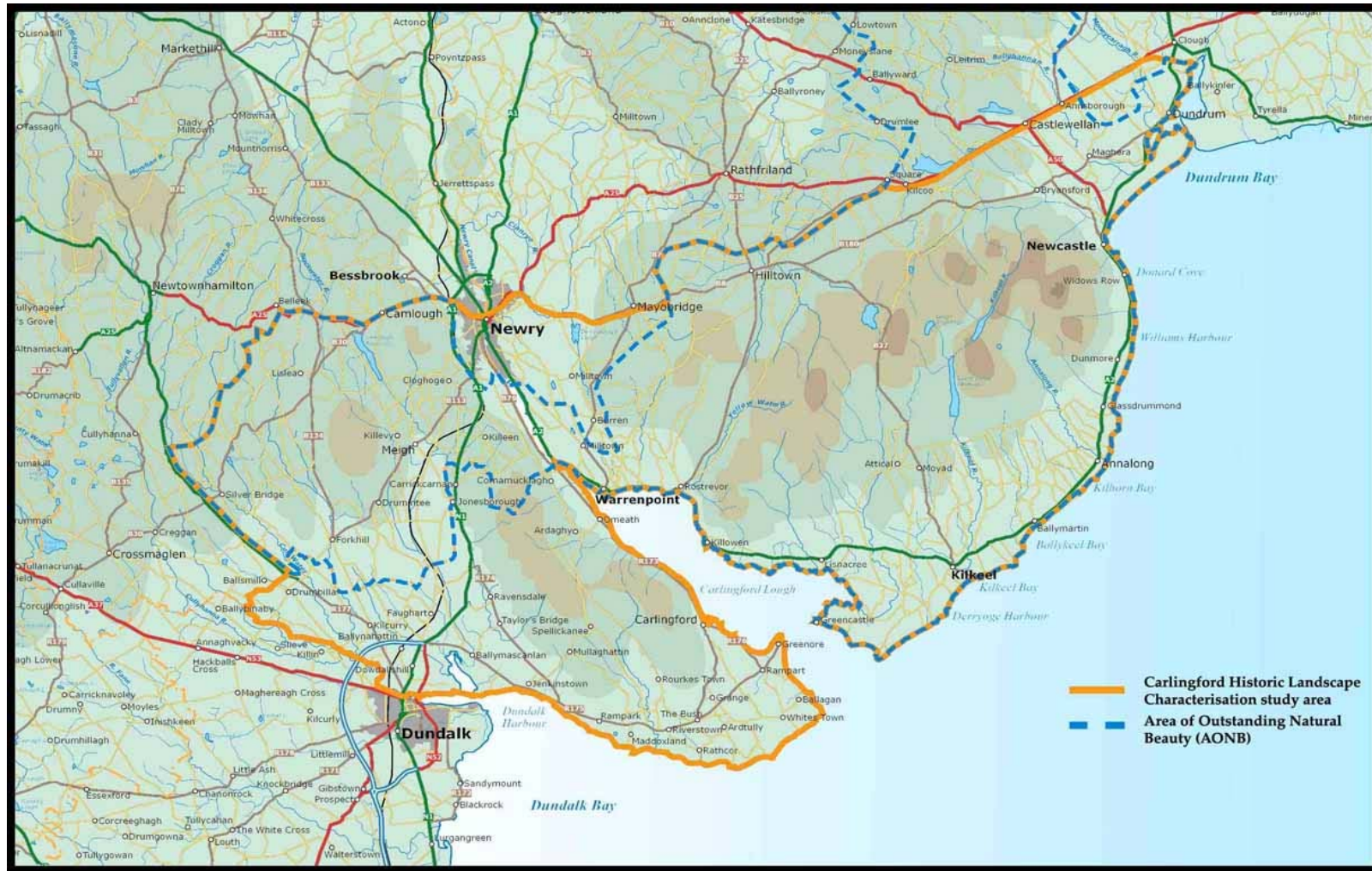
13. Newry and Mourne Council;
14. University College Dublin (UCD); and
15. Ulster University (UU Coleraine).

Project Timescale: 2 years (mid 2007-mid 2009)

Cost of Project: €1.03m -€1.33m (approx £700,000-£900,000).

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Appendix A: Carlingford/Carlingford Lough Study Area Boundary



Appendix B: Derry and Lough Foyle Study Area Boundary

