

Part IV: Overall Analysis

Outline of the Development of South Yorkshire

South Yorkshire has a rich history of change and development. It would take an enormous volume to do justice to these stories so the outline below focuses on the information available through the Historic Environment Characterisation project. The period date ranges used below should be considered as guides to understanding, rather than definite cut off points for different types of society or land use.

Prehistory and Roman South Yorkshire (c.500,000 - AD1066)

The prehistoric landscape of South Yorkshire is largely beyond the scope of the Historic Environment Characterisation. Too little is known about the landscapes of this time and the social structures of the people living in the area to produce anything near to a complete picture of land use. What is known about this period is focused on field systems and some settlement sites scattered across the districts and identified by archaeological field work or crop marks visible from aerial photography (see Roberts *et al* 2007 for a study of crop marks). Surviving prehistoric features can be found across parts of the moorlands west of Sheffield, consisting of field boundaries and funerary monuments. These features have been widely studied elsewhere (e.g. Bevan 2004; Long *et al* 1998). Some of the ancient woodlands of South Yorkshire have also preserved upstanding remains of prehistoric activity (see report on quern manufacturing at Wharncliffe Rocks, Pearson and Oswald 1999).

Roman activity in the area is better understood but is concentrated in pockets of activity. Doncaster is a prime example of a Roman settlement of which much is known (see Buckland and Magilton 1986; Buckland *et al* 1989). Romano-British field patterns have also been located during archaeological excavations across the district. These patterns are rich in the Doncaster region and may have existed further west (some remains have been found during excavation) but are difficult to discern on the differing underlying geology.

Medieval period (c.AD1066-1540)

The full scope of the Characterisation project only becomes clear when looking at the medieval period. Most of the previous character types within the database have been projected back into this period to enable past landscape reconstructions to be produced.

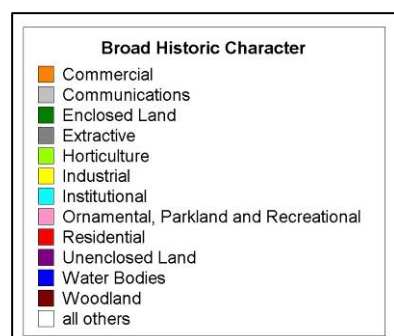
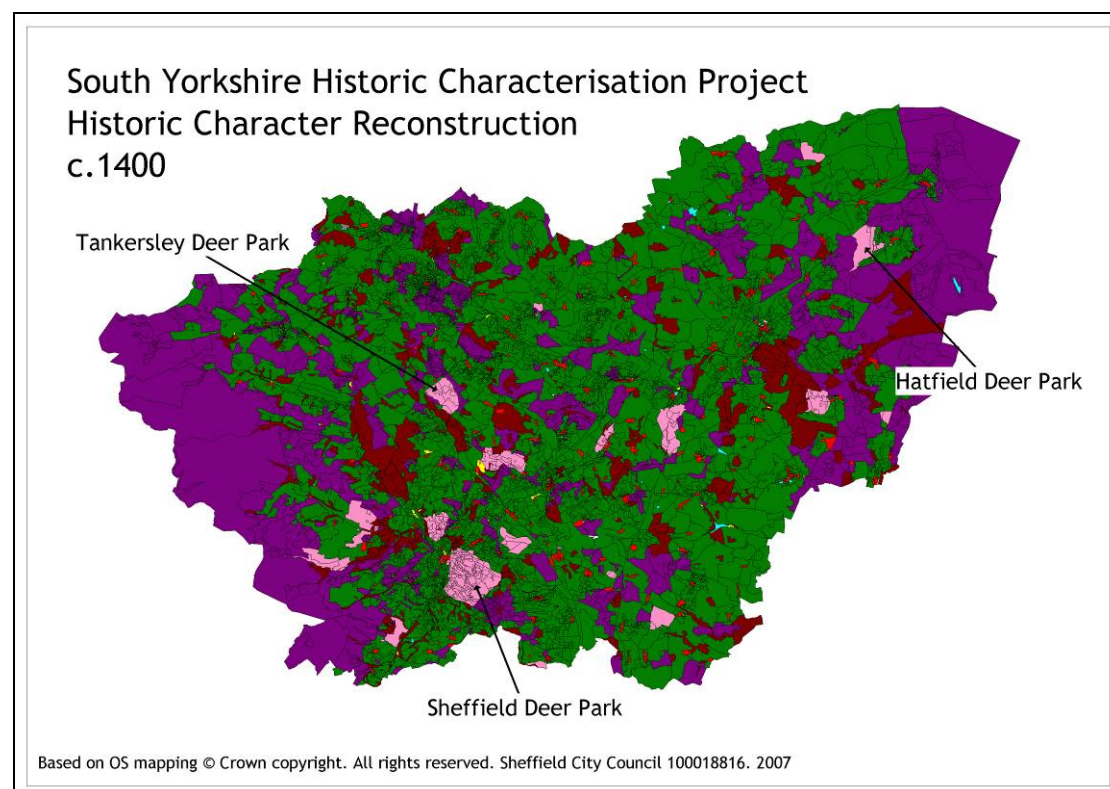


Figure 404: Character Reconstruction AD1400

Medieval South Yorkshire would have been significantly less populated compared with the present day. The west of the region was dominated by large tracts of open moorland this was mirrored by large tracts of wetland landscapes in the east. The moorland landscapes had been being steadily enclosed in

the lower lying fertile lands in the centre of the district from at least the early medieval/Saxon period, a trend that was to continue as population expanded (Hey 1979, 72). Probably by around the 12th century enclosed landscapes were beginning to encroach on the higher moorland fringes which in places may not have been farmed since prehistory.

In places fields were cut out of woodland leading to small irregular assarted field patterns. These patterns are still visible in much of the west of Barnsley. Elsewhere medieval fields were taking on a more organised form with large open field systems developing around a nucleated settlement. Map evidence in central and eastern South Yorkshire show many established

nucleated settlements and their associated open field patterns, but the west of the region has more scattered farmsteads. There were also large areas of unenclosed common through the district.

Large enclosed deer parks were also a feature of the medieval landscape. These areas were the province of the rich and would have been a symbol of status as all deer belonged to the Crown (Jones 2000, 91). Many of the parks of this period have since moved over to agriculture or were substantially altered by later ornamental developments but boundary ditches and the medieval halls associated with the parkland occasionally survive.

Early post-medieval period (c.AD1540- 1750)

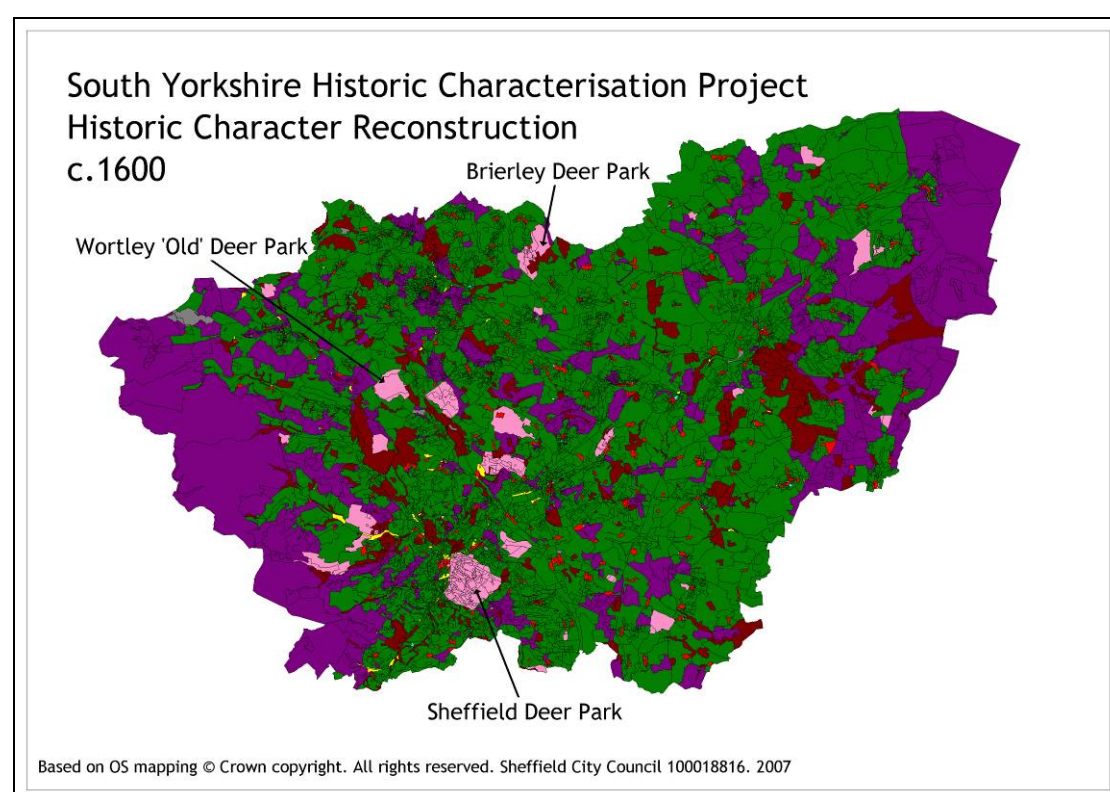


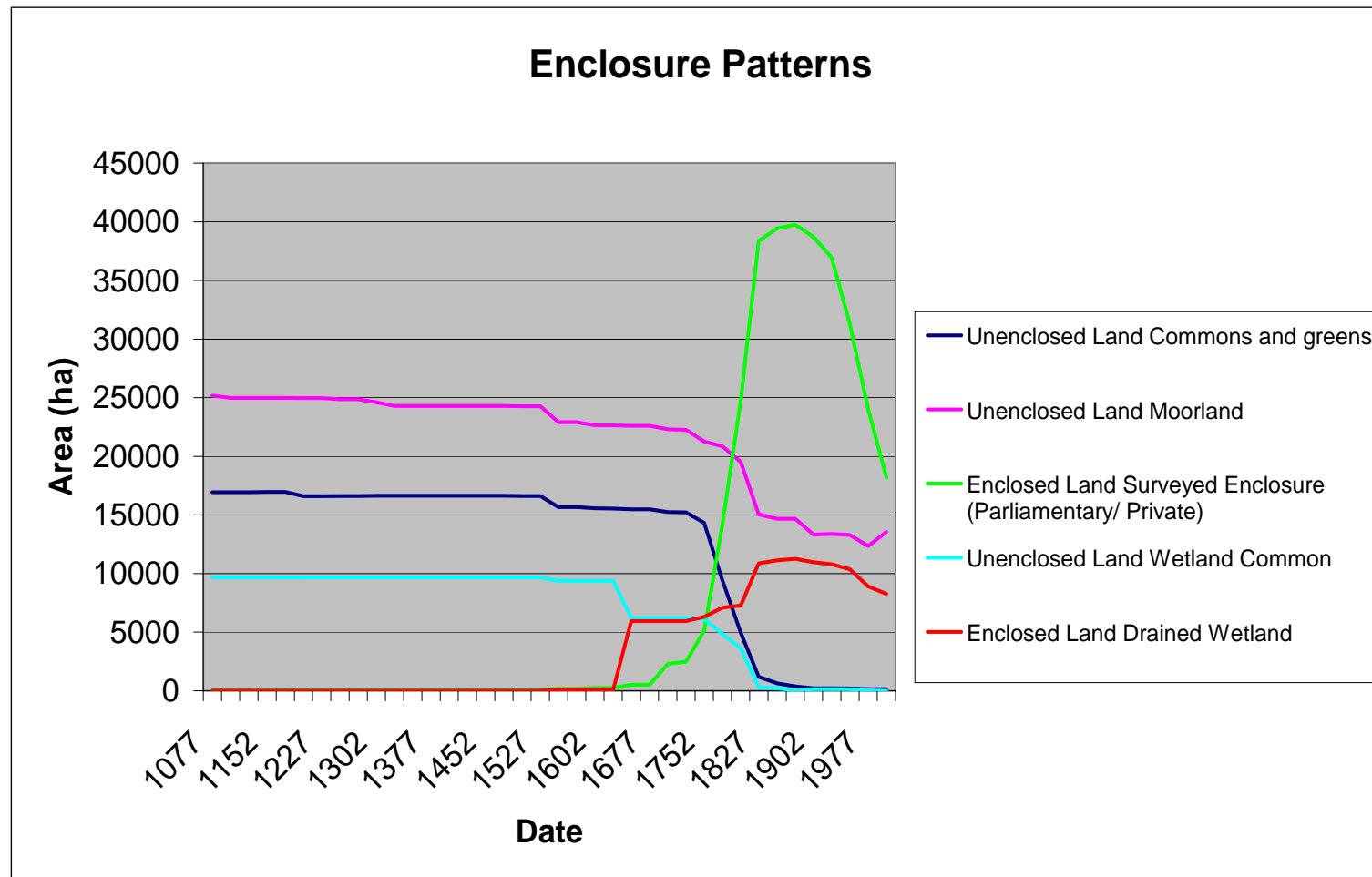
Figure 405: Character Reconstruction AD1600

The early post-medieval period saw several further deer parks established within South Yorkshire whilst others fell out of use and were converted to agriculture. This period also saw the gradual enclosure of medieval open field systems. This sometimes saw the development of long sinuous field patterns; these survive

well in the modern landscape where land has been converted to pasture in the western moorland fringe in Barnsley and parts of northern Doncaster.

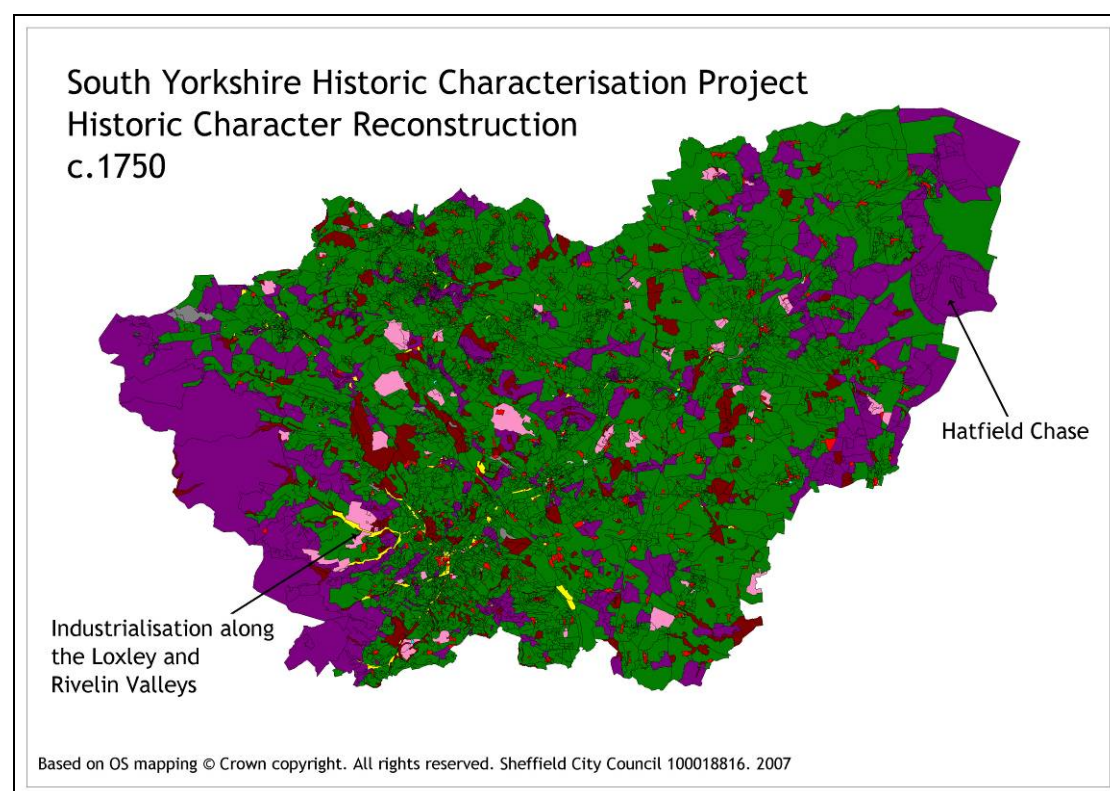
The HEC data shows a false emphasis on the date 1540 as a point when *Open Fields* become *Strip Fields* or *Piecemeal Enclosure*, because this date was used when there was no more specific date available. It is likely, however, that there was a fairly dramatic change in the organisation of the agricultural landscape around this time.

The 17th century saw the beginnings of significant landscape change on the wetlands in Doncaster following an agreement in 1626 between Charles I and the Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden (Hey 1979, 129). This pattern of enclosure and drainage of the moors at Thorne and Hatfield also show up well in the *Drained Wetland* and *Wetland Common* Historic Character Types.



*Figure 406:
Comparison of the
area of enclosed and
unenclosed HEC
Broad Types
recorded by date.*

Industrial period (c. AD1750-1925)



Broad Historic Character	
■	Commercial
■	Communications
■	Enclosed Land
■	Extractive
■	Horticulture
■	Industrial
■	Institutional
■	Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational
■	Residential
■	Unenclosed Land
■	Water Bodies
■	Woodland
■	all others

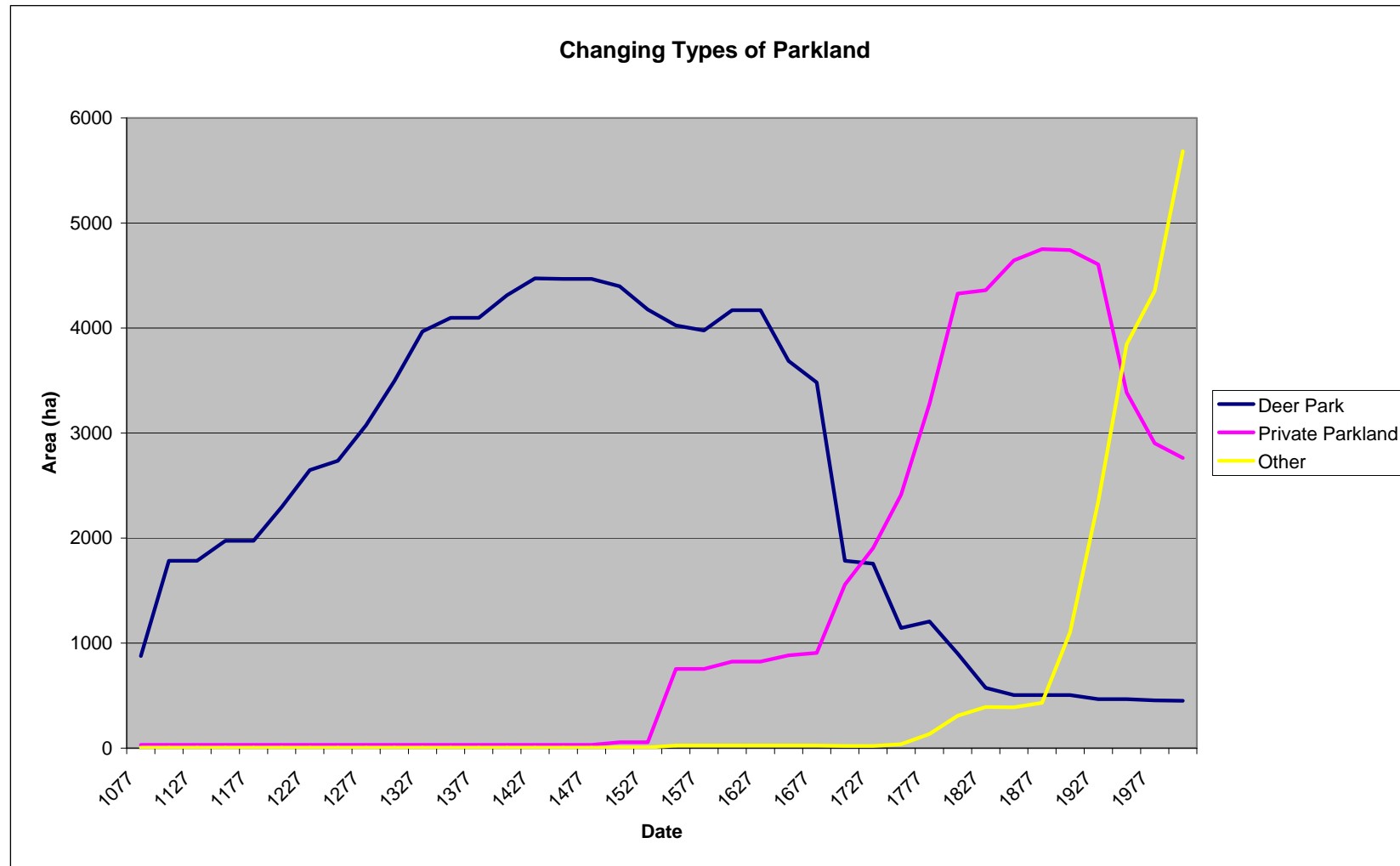
Figure 407: Character Reconstruction AD1750

This was a period of significant growth and landscape change. The steep rivers valleys in the west of the region were becoming more industrialised as water powered industries grew in importance and the urban growth of Sheffield begins.

The enclosed landscape steadily encroaches further onto common land and drainage of wetlands such as Hatfield Chase increases in scale.

Many medieval deer parks were being broken up by this date although others were replaced with landscaped parklands, which became more popular in the 18th century.

Figure 408: Changing area (ha) of different types of parkland



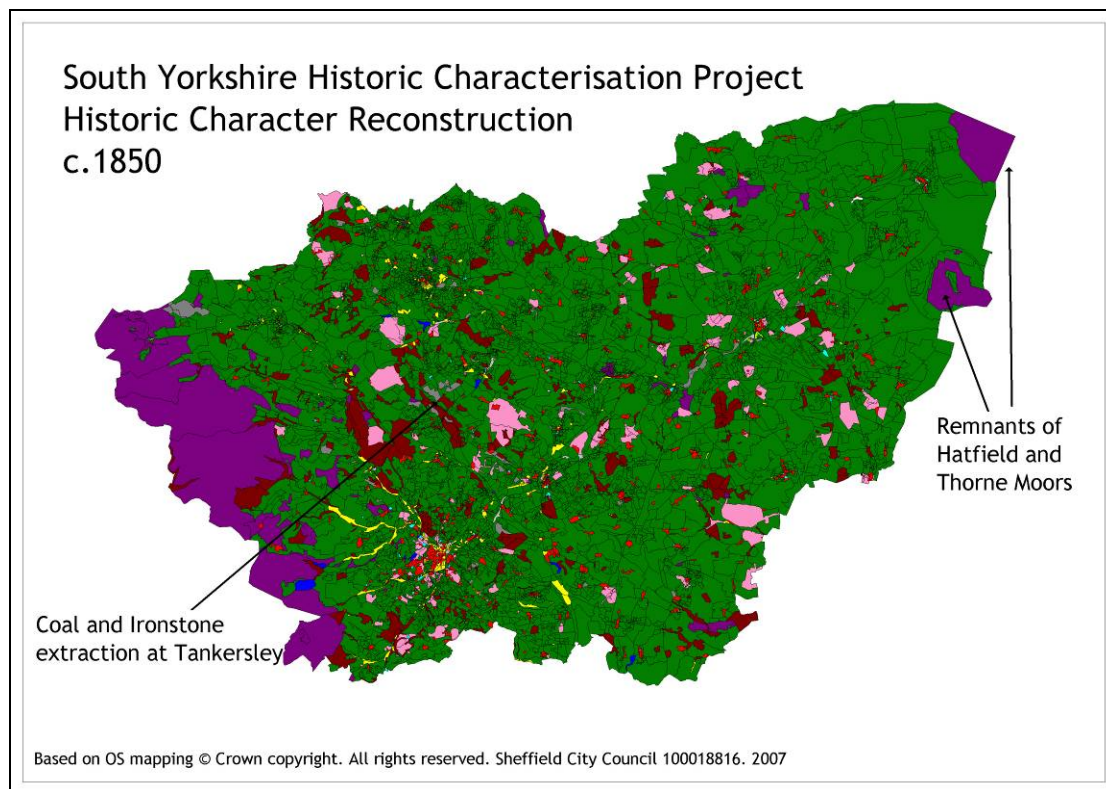


Figure 409: Character Reconstruction AD1850

By the 19th century most of the commons have been enclosed by Parliamentary Enclosure Award and the former moors of Thorne and Hatfield are remnants of their former selves. The highly dramatic increase in *Surveyed Enclosure* seen at this time illustrates the rapid changes that the process of Parliamentary Enclosure made on the

landscape. This increase in enclosure is mirrored by the rapid reduction of unenclosed landscapes.

Industrialisation continues to develop around steel industry in Sheffield and coal extraction is becoming a growing concern in Barnsley. Major transportation links are also opening up with the coming of the first railways and the navigable canals linking Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster to wide markets.

Around the turn of the 19th and 20th century the town of Sheffield expanded beyond its medieval boundaries with the growth of suburban housing away from the deteriorating living conditions in the centre. Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley are also beginning to expand on a substantial scale as the industries within these towns developed. Grid iron terraced housing now dominates these

expanding suburbs. Increasingly these suburbs are linked to the industrial areas (like the Don Valley) by tramways.

The early 20th century also sees substantially larger collieries developing on the edge of the Doncaster district as technologies develop to mine the deep coal seams in the district. Peat extraction also begins on Thorne Moor.

The Inter war period (c. AD1915-1945)

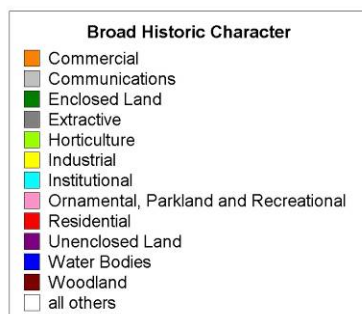
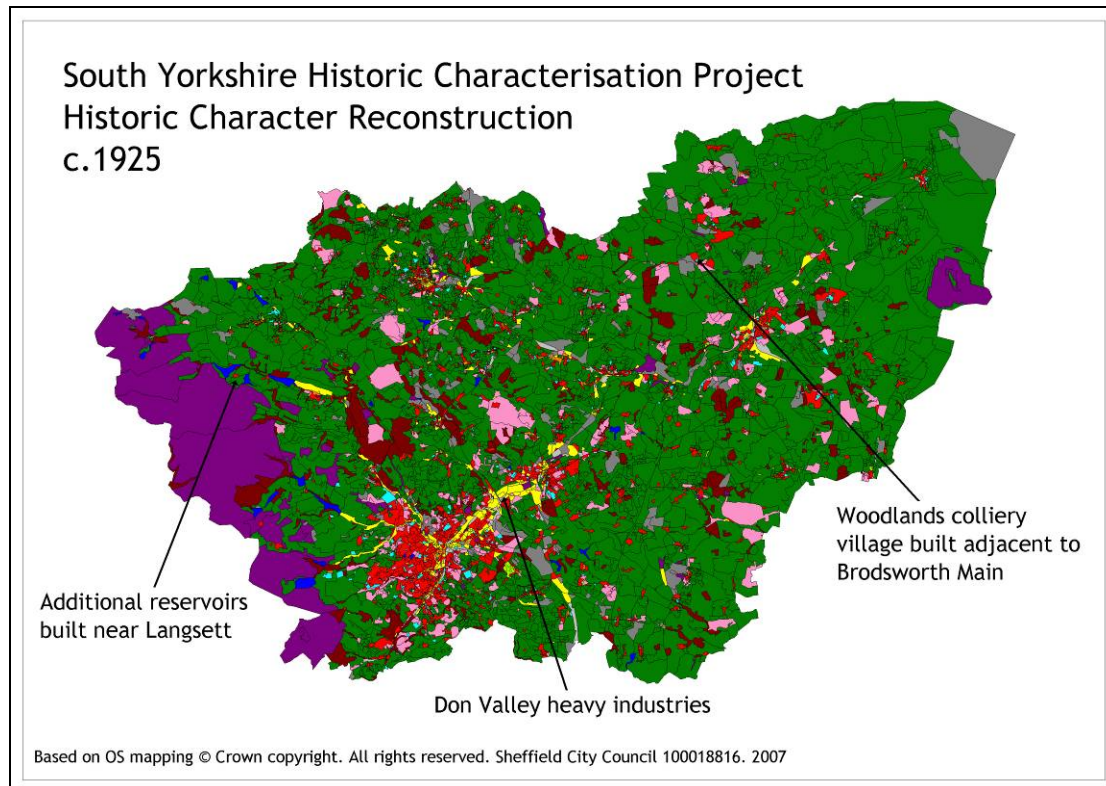


Figure 410: Character Reconstruction AD1925

By now coal mining dominates rural life in the middle of the county especially in the Rother and Dearne Valleys. Substantial urban growth develops in association with the numerous mines. These settlements often take the form of new 'Model villages'; planned settlements of semi detached houses and radial street patterns. The steel

industry however continues to dominate the Don Valley and terraced expansion still continues in Sheffield. The newer terraces of this period however follow strict design regulations of the new housing bylaws.

Post-Second World War (c. AD1946-1990)

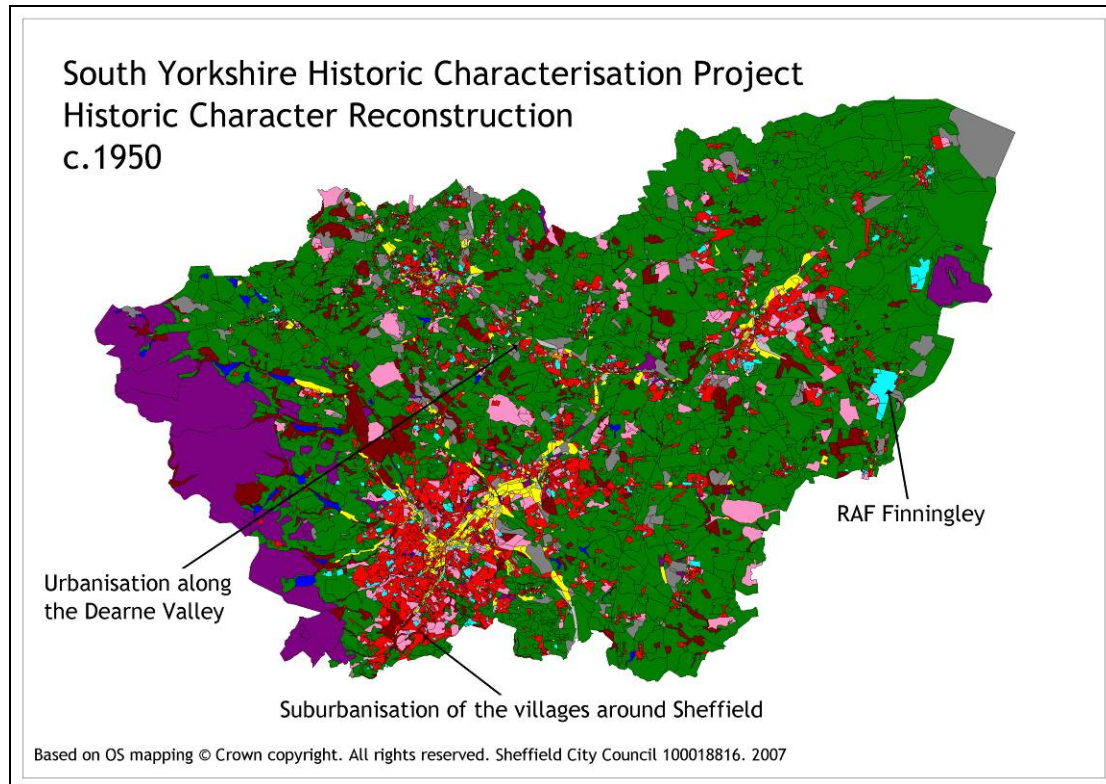


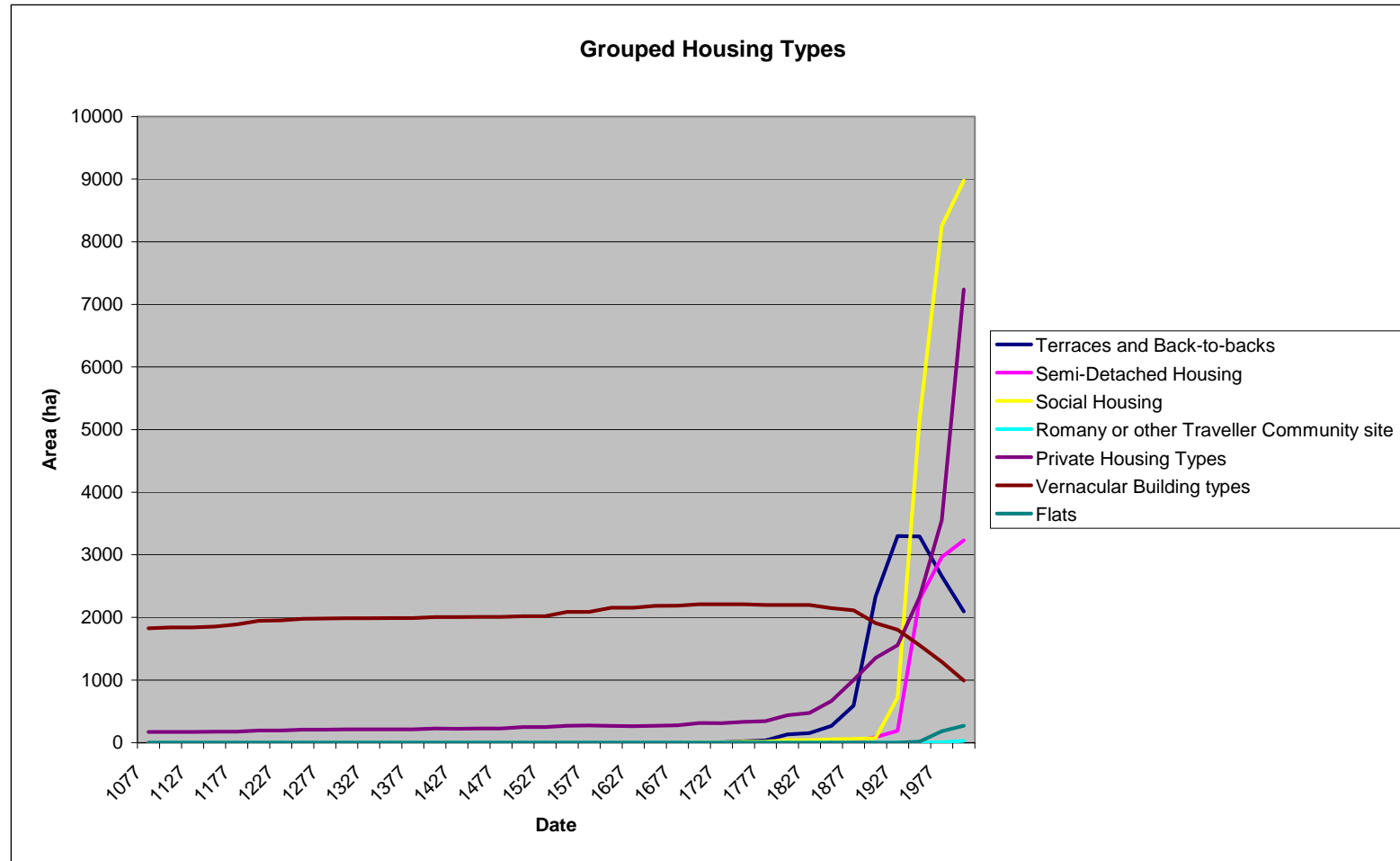
Figure 411: Character Reconstruction AD1950

In the early post-war period Doncaster is growing fast, with terraced housing being built for railway workers around the medieval core. In much of South Yorkshire, however, municipal housing schemes begin to dominate urban areas; semi-detached housing and radial street patterns similar to the developments at colliery villages begin to

cover large areas. These schemes are often combined with clearance of earlier terraces and residential courts.

In the rural landscape extraction of peat transforms the remaining wetlands of Hatfield Moor and agricultural land is transformed from the middle of the century onwards as mechanisation leads to the removal of traditional field boundaries and the construction of new industrial scale farm buildings.

Figure 412: Area (ha) of grouped Residential HEC Broad Types recorded by date



The modern landscape (c. AD1990-present)

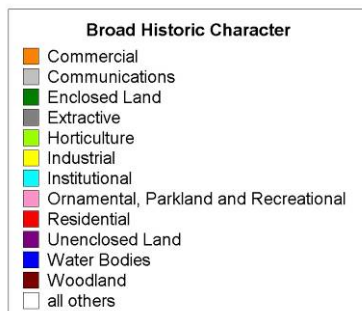
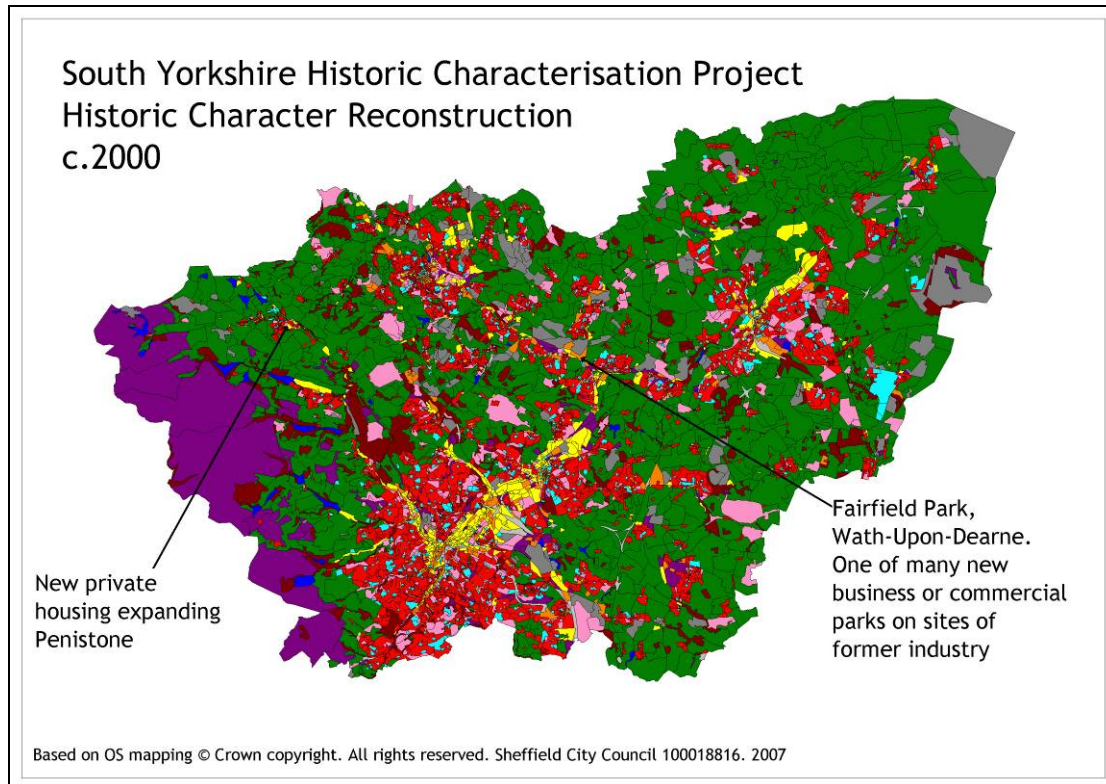


Figure 413: Character Reconstruction AD2000

The patterns of the modern landscape move away from traditional industries. Commercial and business parks develop across the county on sites of former industrial and extractive use.

The patterns of agricultural intensification seen in the 1970s and 80s continue to put pressure on the historic character of the rural landscape especially in the fertile central and eastern areas. *Agglomerated Enclosure* is in fact the only type of enclosed landscape to have increased in area despite the overall reduction of *Enclosed Land* (see appendix IV). The only type of *Unenclosed Land* to have increased in area in recent years is *Regenerated Scrubland*, a landscape that has developed on former industrial sites.

Building developments are now dominated by private housing with large estates of cul-de-sacs forming a ring around earlier housing developments and infilling within urban areas.

Part V: Managing Change Using Historic Environment Characterisation (HEC)

Introduction

Our landscapes and townscape are constantly evolving. This process has occurred throughout history and it is because of this that we have such a rich mix of landscapes and building styles around us.

The aim of characterisation is not to prevent changes in the landscape; it does not produce a list of where development can or can not be carried out. The process of Historic Environment Characterisation does not make value judgements about an area, but provides an evidence base to inform future decision making. It provides communities and their local authorities with an understanding of the time depth of their surroundings. From this basis, decisions about proposed changes can be made once their impact and potential consequences have been fully assessed.

Until recently, the historic fabric of our environment has been largely considered by looking at specific sites and buildings alone. The wider historic environment, produced by the interplay of geology, topography and human action, has largely been overlooked. Planning policy recognises that “(t)he whole of the landscape, to varying degrees and in different ways, is an archaeological and historic artefact, the product of complex historic processes and past land-use. Much of its value lies in its complexity, regional diversity and local distinctiveness” (DoE 1990, 6.40). The complete coverage of the Historic Environment Characterisation project across South Yorkshire allows us to look at this wider picture and now put specific sites within their developmental context.

Existing Management Strategies

Modern development can have a significant impact on our rural and urban landscapes, but changes need not adversely affect the historic environment. Through careful consideration of the local, regional or national importance of features and by taking the wider historic setting into account, changes can enhance an area. Experts in the historic environment are employed by your council in Conservation, Urban Design and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. These experts should be the first port of call in the evaluation of the historic elements of the landscape. The need for consideration of the historic environment, in all its diversity, during the assessment of planning applications is outlined in Planning Policy Guidance notes 15 and 16 (DoE 1990; DoE/DNH 1994). There are also a number of existing statutory controls that protect the historic environment, including;

- **Listed buildings** - buildings of special architectural or historical merit designated by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, under the advice of English Heritage. Information about the buildings is held by the local planning authority, which also makes decisions on demolition, alteration or additions to these structures.
- **Conservation Areas** - areas of special architectural or historic interest whose character or appearance it is desirable to preserve or enhance, designated by the relevant local authority. Changes within these areas need to be authorised by the local planning authority¹.
- **Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)** - nationally important archaeological sites, designated by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, under the advice of English Heritage. All alterations are subject to Secretary of State approval².
- **Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)** - made by the Local Planning Authority to protect particular trees from being removed or damaged³.
- **Hedgerow Regulations** - this allows the Local Planning Authority to designate hedgerows as "important", if they meet agreed criteria, and therefore prevent their removal⁴.
- **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** - sites of special biological, geological or physiographical interest designated by Natural England. Management of these areas is monitored to ensure that the sites are protected from damage or neglect⁵.

¹ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (c.9)

² Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (c.46)

³ Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (c. 8), Part VIII

⁴ Hedgerows Regulations 1997

⁵ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (c. 69), Part II; Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (c. 37), Part III

These statutory protections are complemented by planning policy, existing management strategies and sources of information, many of which can be material considerations in the planning process.

- **The South Yorkshire Sites and Monument Record (SMR)** sometimes known elsewhere as the **Historic Environment Record (HER)** - a record of known archaeological sites within South Yorkshire, maintained by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.
- **Local Lists** - Local Authority Conservation teams may maintain their own lists of buildings and areas of special local character.
- **Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England** - a register, maintained by English Heritage, of parks and gardens of national historic interest. Although there is no statutory protection for these open spaces, designation is recognised as a material consideration within the planning process (Doe/DNH 1994, 2.24).
- **Monuments Protection Programme (MPP)** - a systematic survey of key elements of England's archaeological resource, undertaken by English Heritage with a view to identifying sites worthy of designation.
- **Biodiversity Action Plans** - locally produced documents derived from the government's commitment to preserve and enhance UK biodiversity.
- **Environmental Stewardship** - an agri-environment scheme that rewards land owners for conserving biodiversity, and for maintaining and enhancing landscape character and elements of the historic environment.

Historic Environment Characterisation can be used to enhance information held within such repositories and should be integrated with current systems of protection.

Management Recommendations

To supplement existing statutory protection and management regimes, key aims for the management of the historic environment in South Yorkshire should include;

- Preservation of *local distinctiveness* e.g. through the use of local building materials, retention of unique buildings, maintenance of existing patterns of land division and urban street and boundary form, etc;
- Preservation and enhancement of *time depth* preserved within the landscape;
- And the promotion of *understanding* of the past and knowledge of how fragments of past landscapes can be seen in our current surroundings.

The Historic Environment Characterisation project has recorded the dominant historic character of individual places within South Yorkshire. These 'Places' can range from: a large number of fields, a housing estate, a small group of buildings or a single street, are based on variations in the current and past character of the landscape. As part of the analysis of this data, individual places have been grouped into 'Character Zones' that go some way to describing the historic processes that have led to the current landscape (further information on the process of zoning in Methodology). These zones are not fixed divisions in the landscape but may increase or decrease in size as a result of future changes.

The generalised nature of this zoning means that there will, inevitably, be character variation within zones. When considering the appropriate management of sites with a different character to the zone in which they are located, it will be necessary to assess the historic character at a local scale. For these purposes, a study of the individual characterisation units/'Places' may be more appropriate than a study of zones (e.g Case Study 4).

The following section will highlight some of the historic features within each zone that may be vulnerable to change and whose loss would alter the distinctive character of that zone. These lists should be read in conjunction with the appropriate Character Zone Descriptions documents, to obtain more background information.

Through an examination of the rate and scale of recent changes (see appendix III for graphs showing rate of change) within each zone, recent pressures on particular landscapes can be considered. The follow section assesses these levels of change based upon the number of character changes recorded by the Historic Environment Characterisation project. It also suggests examples of future changes that may affect the historic character of the zones. These lists are not intended to be comprehensive, as future developments can not be fully anticipated.

Managing Rural Landscape Zones

Moorland

Location:

This zone is located on the western limits of Sheffield and Barnsley districts.

Brief Description:

The zone is dominated by heather moorlands, blanket bog and rough grasslands. Much of the land was divided into large enclosures by long, straight, drystone walls in the 19th century, during Parliamentary Enclosure. Some areas are still actively managed for grouse shooting.

This landscape may contain:

Rich archaeological evidence of the activities of prehistoric humans, including both upstanding earthworks and below ground remains, along with valuable environmental remains that can provide information on past climates and the nature of past animal and crop utilisation; 18th and 19th century drystone walls with associated stiles and gate posts, etc.; structures related to the management of the land for grouse shooting, such as butts.

Recent changes include:

The creation of car parks, new footpaths and sign posting.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

The moorland zone is relatively stable with only small scale alterations occurring within the past 200 years. Recent management for leisure and access has introduced car parking facilities and a proliferation of signage and new footpaths, leading to small scale erosion in certain areas but management broadly aims to maintain the landscape.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Removal or gradual decline in the upkeep of Parliamentary Enclosure boundaries; enclosure and improvement of land on the edges of the zone; widening of roads; removal of stone stiles; management of the landscape for increased access.

General management recommendations:

- Assess the effect of small scale changes for their impact on local historic character e.g. signage and street furniture need to be sympathetically designed to fit within the landscape.
- Promote landscape management practices that preserve both upstanding and buried archaeological remains.
- Retain and enhance features related to the 18th and 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure boundaries.

Surveyed Enclosure

Location:

In Sheffield and Barnsley districts this zone is concentrated in the west. Within the Doncaster and Rotherham districts the zone is more widely dispersed.

Brief Description:

These landscapes are characterised by straight-sided enclosures with hedged or drystone wall boundaries, constructed during Parliamentary Enclosure. There are often contemporary straight roads running through these field systems. The landscape is punctuated by dispersed farmsteads, often dating to the time of the surveyed enclosure.

This landscape may contain:

18th and 19th century boundary features; contemporary roads and milestones, toll houses and inns; 18th and 19th century farm buildings; sinuous road patterns or boundary features associated with earlier open field agriculture; early industrial sites on the edges of former commons.

Recent changes include:

Boundary removal to create larger fields, particularly in the districts of Doncaster, Rotherham and to the east of Barnsley; quarrying and opencast clay extraction; building of large modern farm sheds at earlier farms; development of golf courses and other recreational facilities.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

Since the mid 20th century there has been an increase in the rate of change within this zone. This is largely due to agglomeration of fields, as part of a process of agricultural intensification for arable production. This process seems to have reduced slightly in the late 20th century.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Boundary removal leading to further agglomeration of fields; deterioration of remaining hedges and drystone walls; ploughing of permanent pastures for conversion to arable production.

General management recommendations:

- Maintain and enhance irregular field boundaries within this zone, where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape.
- Retain and enhance features related to the 18th and 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure boundaries.
- Design extensions to and conversions of enclosure period farmsteads sensitively, to complement earlier buildings.
- Develop survey methodologies to evaluate the archaeological potential of permanent pasture, if it is to be ploughed.

Assarted Enclosure

Location:

This zone is located to the west of Sheffield and Barnsley and on the north western edge of Rotherham district.

Brief Description:

Countryside with irregular fields with hedged boundaries that often date to the medieval period or earlier.

This landscape may contain:

Ancient woodlands, which themselves may contain earthwork remains of industrial activities or prehistoric sites; medieval farm buildings; early water powered industrial sites; features associated with medieval deer parks or chases, such as earthwork boundaries and ponds; early examples of coal and other mineral extraction.

Recent changes include:

Boundary loss; landscaping of former colliery spoil heaps.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

After an increase in the rate of change in the early 20th century (due to boundary loss, to increase the size of fields, and the replanting of ancient woodlands with conifers) there has been a gradual slow down in the level of change in this zone.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Boundary removal; boundary straightening; replacement of mature hedgerows with fence lines or less species rich hedgerows; new roads cutting through the field pattern; removal of woodland or replanting with non-native species; abandonment of traditional maintenance practices; conversion from pasture to arable cultivation.

General management recommendations:

- Active management of hedgerows and mature trees and promotion of the retention of sinuous boundaries, small field sizes and traditional management techniques.
- Assess the archaeological potential of industrial remains, earthworks, buildings, ancient woodlands and hedgerows through detailed field survey.
- Preserve features associated with former deer parks and make these features more legible within the landscape.
- Preserve features associated with early industrial sites and make these features more legible within the landscape.
- Preserve features associated with early mining activity and make these features more legible within the landscape.

Strip Enclosure

Location:

This zone is located in the west of the districts of Sheffield and Barnsley, with a small scattering near to the historic settlements in Rotherham. In Doncaster district the zone is found to the north of the river Don, within the Humberhead Levels Landscape Character Area.

Brief Description:

Landscape containing long thin curving fields often with reverse s shaped boundaries. Field boundaries are a mix of drystone walls and hedges containing mature trees. Roads are often winding.

This landscape may contain:

Medieval or other early timber-framed buildings; ridge and furrow earthworks indicating medieval ploughing; crop mark evidence for buried archaeological remains; (in Doncaster) moated sites with potential for waterlogged archaeological evidence.

Recent changes include:

Boundary removal leading to field agglomeration and, in Doncaster, continued late 20th century drainage programmes.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

The rate of change within this zone is increasing. Any boundary removal will significantly alter the character of this zone. This type of landscape was once common across South Yorkshire but extensive agglomeration makes any areas with good strip survival significant and worthy of all efforts for preservation.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Boundary removal; boundary straightening; replacement of mature hedgerows with fence lines or less species rich hedgerows; ploughing of ridge and furrow earthworks; continued lowering of the water table to the north of Doncaster would result in the desiccation and loss of waterlogged archaeological remains.

General management recommendations:

- Active management of hedgerows and mature trees and promotion of the retention of sinuous boundaries and narrow fields.
- Maintain pasture where ridge and furrow and other earthworks survive.
- Preserve and enhance medieval or early post-medieval buildings.
- Design new buildings near medieval or early post-medieval buildings sensitively, to complement these structures.
- Active monitoring of waterlogged sites to facilitate better management of buried archaeological remains (e.g. the nationally important earthworks at Sutton Common).

Wetland Enclosure

Location:

Predominantly found in the east of Doncaster district, with some areas along the river valleys in Barnsley and Rotherham districts.

Brief Description:

This zone is made up of a mix of valley floor landscapes and drained wetlands. These areas are generally enclosed with straight and regular patterns of hedges and ditches.

This landscape may contain:

Important raised mires at Thorne and Hatfield Moors; waterlogged archaeological and environmental remains; 17th, 18th and 19th century farm buildings; remains of 18th and 19th century waterway improvements and canals, including features such as bridges, locks and sluices; 17th-20th century drainage systems and associated features; 20th century military heritage sites.

Recent changes include:

Peat extraction; boundary removal; redundancy of World War II and Cold War airfields and related military sites.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

This zone continues to change although not as quickly as it did in the mid 20th century. Agglomeration of enclosures is a significant factor in this change.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Boundary removal, such as of the long thin enclosures at Thorne Cables; new roads cutting across established boundary patterns; increased flood protection systems and drainage as a result of climate change.

General management recommendations:

- Active management of hedgerows and mature trees.
- Maintain and enhance irregular field boundaries within this zone where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape e.g. curving boundaries at the edges of former common.
- Promote the retention of narrow enclosure patterns e.g. Thorne Cables.
- Design extensions to and conversions of enclosure period farmsteads sensitively to complement earlier buildings.
- Assess the impact of any new drainage programme upon archaeological remains.
- Plan for the mitigation of the projected effects of climate change on the historic environment of this zone.

Private Parkland

Location:

This zone is scattered throughout the districts of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. It is found predominantly in a band running north to south through the centre of South Yorkshire.

Brief Description:

This zone consists mostly of landscapes used as ornamental parkland from the 17th to early 19th century. There are some examples of medieval deer parks within this zone that were substantially altered in the post-medieval period.

This landscape may contain:

Boundary features associated with medieval or post-medieval deer parks; ancient woodlands; relict field boundaries pre-dating emparkment, surviving in the form of tree lines; designed ornamental landscapes inc. ponds and artificial water course, planting schemes and gardens around large elite residences.

Recent changes include:

Reuse of elite residences as institutional buildings leading to construction of car parks and the addition of new buildings; cessation of active ornamental management; creation of golf courses; introduction of agriculture.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

Zone wide, the levels of changes in these areas are decreasing compared with the substantial alterations that took place from the late 19th century onwards. However, small scale alterations to these areas may cause incremental degradation to the character of parkland. In a few parks, recent changes and restoration projects have enhanced their former parkland character.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Removal or restoration of components of original ornamental schemes; scattered tree planting that diminishes the legibility of former field boundaries; addition of overhead lighting.

General management recommendations:

- Develop better understanding of individual parks/gardens through detailed characterisation and research.
- Preserve and enhance medieval and later park and garden features, including kitchen gardens.
- Encourage public access and interpretation to privately owned sites.
- Maintain pasture where ridge and furrow earthworks survive.
- Assess the impact of new tree planting upon relict field patterns.
- Design extensions to former elite residences and new buildings within parks/gardens sensitively, to respect historic character.

Agglomerated Enclosure

Location:

This zone is found in the districts of Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster and runs in a strip southeast to northwest across the centre of South Yorkshire.

Brief Description:

Very large enclosures where sub-dividing boundaries have been removed. Remaining boundaries are a mix of straight sided enclosures and more irregular field patterns, dependant upon the character of the earlier landscape.

This landscape may contain:

Curving boundaries and roads marking the edges of former open fields; ancient hedgerows; crop mark evidence of prehistoric enclosure systems; coal and other mineral extraction sites.

Recent changes include:

Large scale boundary removal; landscaping of former colliery sites; large scale expansion of older farmsteads.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

After the dramatic level of change in the mid to late 20th century, when most of the boundary removal occurred, there has been a reduction in the rate of change. This, however, reflects the fact that the historic character of most landscapes within the zone has already been substantially altered. If the process of boundary removal continues, the time depth of these landscapes will suffer further.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Further boundary removal; replacement of surviving hedgerows with fencing; deep ploughing over buried archaeological remains.

General management recommendations:

- Maintain surviving sinuous boundary features, where they provide legibility of time depth.
- Active management of hedgerows and mature trees.
- Discourage further agglomeration of fields.

Sub-Rural Fringe

Location:

This zone is found on the edges of the urban centres in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.

Brief Description:

Areas of open space with relict field patterns and evidence for early industries that have been affected by the close proximity of urban areas. The open spaces have often been later developed as parkland.

This landscape may contain:

Surveyed enclosure boundary features; pre-enclosure boundaries; ancient woodlands; disused industrial/ water-powered sites and earlier archaeological sites; 19th and early 20th century park landscaping.

Recent changes include:

Increase in management for public use including construction of leisure centres and recreation grounds; regeneration of scrub on former colliery sites or the deliberate landscaping of these areas; restoration and management of historic parklands and open spaces.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

After a period of increasing change in the late 19th and early 20th century, the rate of character change within this zone has slowed. To retain the time depth that is characteristic of this zone, it is necessary to manage the areas to retain a mixture of features from previous land use.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Extensive re-landscaping of former colliery sites; removal of embankments associated with former railway lines; changes in patterns of leisure use.

General management recommendations:

- Maintain and enhance irregular field boundaries and other relict rural features within this zone, where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape.
- Assess early parkland features and, where appropriate, ensure that modern landscaping is designed sensitively to incorporate these.
- Assess and record surviving colliery and industrial structures/features. Related buildings and structures should be preserved and imaginatively reused.
- The management of these areas as a leisure resource should promote opportunities to widen participation and educational opportunities connected with the historic environment.

Extractive

Location:

This zone is predominantly found across the Coal Measures in the districts of Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster, with outlying areas on Doncaster's limestones, sandstones and gravels.

Brief Description:

Collieries and large quarries, active in 2003, often containing large spoil heaps, winding gear and surface structures.

This landscape may contain:

Structures associated with 19th and early 20th century mineral extraction and processing.

Recent changes include:

Removal of surface buildings; landscaping, grading and planting of spoil heaps and surrounding areas.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

This zone has undergone a steady process of change throughout the 19th and 20th century as coal mining increased across the region. The later 20th century and early 21st century has seen the abandonment of colliery sites and their redevelopment for industry, commercial activity and in the creation of parkland. If all former extractive sites were considered then this pattern would be even more dramatic. If this pattern continues then the zone is likely to disappear with these areas considered within other zone types.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Continued deliberate clearance and removal of related features.

General management recommendations:

- Assess and record surviving colliery sites, especially those scheduled for regeneration.
- Surviving buildings/features should be considered for preservation and imaginative reuse in order to preserve legibility of a former major influence on South Yorkshire's landscapes. This is particularly important where a nearby settlement is intimately linked with the colliery.

Managing Urban Landscape Zones

Nucleated Rural Settlements

Location:

This zone is widely distributed across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. There are similar settlements within the Sheffield district that have been considered as part of the surrounding countryside or within urban zones.

Brief Description:

Historic nucleated settlements likely to date back to the medieval period. Buildings within this zone are often early in date, many examples dating to at least the 18th century. Road and property boundary patterns will, in many cases, date back to the medieval period. Some nucleated settlements retain a rural setting whilst others have been surrounded by later housing.

This landscape may contain:

Property boundaries and streets following medieval croft patterns; medieval churches; manor houses; early examples of vernacular buildings; buried medieval and later archaeological remains.

Recent changes include:

Infilling of back plots with modern housing; demolition of vernacular cottages and terraces; road widening programmes; preservation of core areas through Conservation Area designation.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

There has been a gradual increase in the rate of change within this zone since the mid 19th century. The rate of change steadied in the late 20th century but has since shown an increase; the maximum level of recent change is still low.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Continued infilling and loss of boundaries, removing the pattern of narrow plots with buildings along the street frontages; demolition of early buildings.

General management recommendations:

- Design modern developments sensitively to respect and enhance the layout and character of the historic settlement.
- Retain historic plot boundaries.
- Preserve and enhance buildings that make the local area distinctive.
- Retain and enhance the link between historic settlements and their surrounding fields. This may be possible by siting any new development within former field boundaries, for example.
- Widen appreciation of the historic environment of the settlement through interpretation.

Complex Historic Town Cores

Location:

This zone takes in the urban centre of the city of Sheffield and the large towns of Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster; in the Doncaster district this zone also includes the historic cores of Bawtry, Conisbrough, Mexborough, Thorne and Tickhill.

Brief Description:

Historic settlements are likely to date back to the medieval period. Settlements have a higher level of complexity than the Nucleated Rural Settlement zone, which often reflects deliberate medieval planning. Buildings within this zone are often early in date, with many examples dating to at least the 18th century. Within the historic core, road and property boundary patterns will, in many cases, date back to the medieval period.

This landscape may contain:

Property boundaries and streets following medieval croft patterns; medieval or earlier churches; castles; monastic sites; markets; early examples of vernacular buildings; early industrial archaeology; buried medieval and later archaeological remains.

Recent changes include:

Severance affects of late 20th century road schemes; pedestrianisation; commercial redevelopment; private housing infill.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

After an increase in alteration to these areas in the late 19th and early 20th century, the rate of change appears to be reducing. This may be due to the surviving historic sections of these settlements gaining recognition and protection.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Continued loss of historic property boundaries; demolition of early buildings; re-routing of roads away from historic patterns.

General management recommendations:

- Design modern developments sensitively to respect and enhance the layout and character of the historic settlement
- Retain historic plot boundaries.
- Preserve and enhance buildings that make the local area distinctive.
- Widen appreciation of the historic environment of the settlement through interpretation.

Industrial Settlements

Location:

Industrial settlements are found across the districts of Barnsley and Rotherham. Within the district of Sheffield these types of settlements are considered within the Suburbanised Rural Settlement zone.

Brief Description:

Largely consisting of terraced housing, often irregular in layout and positioned along a road or on an area of former common.

This landscape may contain:

Fossilised field patterns within road layouts and property boundaries; early examples of terraced housing; non-conformist chapels; charity, church and 'Board' school buildings; miner's welfare facilities; allotment gardens.

Recent changes include:

Clearance of terraced housing; infilling with private housing; change of use and demolition of 19th century institutional buildings; reductions in the legibility of related industrial sites; dereliction of allotment gardens.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

There was a general reduction in the rate of change within this zone from the early 20th century but this trend has recently changed. Early terraced housing is often targeted by regeneration plans for removal. These terraces are significant within the country as many former industrial settlements have been demolished and completely re-built.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Continued demolition of early residential and institutional buildings; creation of new estates that overwrite fossilised boundary patterns; housing development on allotment gardens.

General management recommendations:

- Assess early terraces for their historic value and consider alternatives to demolition in regeneration schemes, e.g. combining two small houses.
- Encourage alterations to buildings to be undertaken in a manner that does not detract from their original style.
- Take into account the link between industrial housing and contemporary industrial buildings.
- Encourage the sustainable re-use of institutional buildings.
- Encourage programmes that facilitate the restoration of allotment gardens and maintain and enhance miner's welfare facilities.
- Maintain and enhance features within this zone that provide evidence of time depth in the landscape.
- Widen appreciation of the historic environment of the settlement through interpretation.

Planned Industrial Settlements

Location:

Planned industrial settlements are found within Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster districts. Within Sheffield, this settlement type has been considered within the Suburbanised Rural Settlement zone.

Brief Description:

Settlements often built in geometric patterns with green spaces at the centre of circular road layouts. The houses are generally semi-detached or built in short rows. Settlements within the Suburbanised Rural Settlement zone are likely to have more diverse housing styles with larger areas of terraces.

This landscape may contain:

Examples of 'model' communities; early examples of terraced housing; miner's welfare facilities; large areas of allotment gardens, in addition to generous domestic plots.

Recent changes include:

Cul-de-sac estates of private housing developing around the planned settlement; later social housing programmes insensitive to the concepts of the original designs; lack of maintenance of green and open spaces; expansion and rebuilding of school sites.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

Analysis of the level of change within this zone indicates that there has been a reduction in the rate of change within the late 20th century. However, this is due to the fact that the rapid development of this zone occurred in the early to mid 20th century.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Removal of radial road patterns; alterations to housing that affect the symmetrical design of the frontages; removal of original amenity facilities and institutional buildings.

General management recommendations:

- Assess the effect of new building developments on the planned settlement pattern.
- Take into account the link between industrial housing and contemporary industrial buildings.
- Maintain and enhance miner's welfare facilities.
- Maintain and enhance legible features within this zone where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape e.g. street patterns that fossilise former field boundaries.

Suburbanised Rural Settlements

Location:

This zone is located in Sheffield. Similar settlement types with Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham have been separated into the Industrial Settlements, Planned Industrial Settlements and Nucleated Rural Settlements zones.

Brief Description:

Settlements often built in geometric patterns with green spaces at the centre of circular road layouts. The houses are generally semi detached or built in short rows. Settlements within the Suburbanised Rural Settlement zone are likely to have large areas of terraced housing.

This landscape may contain:

Examples of 'model' communities; miner's welfare facilities; fossilised field patterns within road layouts and property boundaries; early examples of terraced housing.

Recent changes include:

Cul-de-sac estates of private housing developing around the planned settlement; expansion of school sites.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

Analysis of the level of change within these zones indicates that there has been a reduction in the rate of change within the late 20th century. However, this is due to the fact that the major period of development of this zone occurred in the early to mid 20th century, alterations to this character are therefore highly likely to occur on a smaller scale compared to the initial development.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Removal of radial road patterns; alterations to housing that alter the symmetrical design of the frontages; alteration to the historic cores.

General management recommendations:

- Assess the affect of new building developments on large scale planned settlement patterns.
- Take into account the link between industrial housing and contemporary industrial buildings.
- Maintain and enhance legible features within this zone where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape e.g. street patterns fossilising former field boundaries.
- Design modern developments sensitively to respect and enhance the layout and character of the historic settlement cores, retaining historic plot boundaries wherever possible.
- Preserve and enhance buildings that give an area its distinctive character.

Grid Iron Terraced Housing/ Terraced Housing Clearance Areas

Location:

Grid Iron Terraced Housing is found extensively in the city of Sheffield. It is also concentrated around the principal urban centres of Doncaster, Barnsley, Rotherham and Mexborough. Terraced Housing Clearance Areas are found only in Sheffield and are described here as they share many characteristics.

Brief Description:

Terraced housing built in grid patterns, often covering large areas of land. Houses are often very uniform due to the development of bylaws that controlled housing size. Houses often still have outside toilets that were either accessed by a back lane running along the rear of the housing or through alleyways running through the terrace, at intervals.

This landscape may contain:

Strip field patterns fossilised in the layout of the terraces; 18th century or earlier elite residences; late 19th and early 20th century churches, non-conformist chapels and school buildings (specifically early examples of board schools); cemeteries contemporary with the housing.

Recent changes include:

Infill developments on allotments and cleared sites; new school buildings; recreation grounds on sites of former industry; pressures from car parking.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

The later 20th century has seen a gradual increase in character change within the zone – the result of demolition and new building. Incremental small scale changes not on this scale still degrade the character of the zone.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Abandonment and demolition of institutional buildings; demolition of terraces during regeneration schemes; alterations to windows and doors; modern shop fronts put into former residential properties/earlier shops; bricking up of traditional shop entrances; further removal of allotments.

General management recommendations:

- Encourage sustainable reuse of institutional buildings.
- Assess early terraces for uniqueness and historic value and consider alternatives to demolition e.g. combining two small houses.
- Design modern buildings to complement industrial housing styles, particularly where there are coherent terraces in the vicinity.
- Encourage alterations to buildings to be undertaken in a manner that does not detract from their original style.

- Take into account the link between industrial housing and contemporary industrial buildings and shops.
- Maintain and enhance legible features within this zone where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape e.g. street patterns that fossilise former field boundaries.

19th to Early 20th Century Villa Suburbs

Location:

This zone is found in the districts of Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham and is generally on the edge of the principal urban centres.

Brief Description:

Suburbs of detached and semi-detached houses. Houses tend to be fairly well spaced and roads are often lined with mature trees.

This landscape may contain:

Earlier field boundary patterns fossilised in road layouts; artistically valuable examples of domestic architecture; mature domestic gardens and parks; street trees.

Recent changes include:

Infilling of open spaces and former gardens.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

There has been very little recent change to the character of this zone with the rate of change in the 20th century steadily decreasing. This is likely to be due to many parts of the zone being designated Conservation Areas.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Bricking or concreting over of front gardens; removal of mature trees; infilling of garden plots.

General management recommendations:

- Encourage alterations to buildings to be undertaken in a manner that does not detract from the original housing style.
- Promote the maintenance and retention of gardens and mature trees, including street trees.
- Maintain and enhance legible features within this zone where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape e.g. street patterns fossilising former field boundaries.

Early to Mid 20th Century Private Suburbs

Location:

This zone is found within the districts of Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield and Rotherham. These types of suburbs are often located on the edges of larger settlements and are particularly large on the western limits of Sheffield.

Brief Description:

Areas of predominantly semi-detached housing. These buildings were sometimes developed in small estates and other times developed in a more piecemeal fashion over time. Within an estate, buildings are often built to a partially standardised design. There are many similarities in plan-form with municipal estates of a similar age, but the housing tends to be larger and have more decorative features. This housing type also commonly features in ribbon pattern developments along main roads.

This landscape may contain:

Field boundary patterns fossilised in current road and boundary layouts; pre-20th century buildings, such as barns and cottages incorporated by the later development.

Recent changes include:

Infill housing; abandonment of early institutional buildings; new school buildings.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

Due to the relatively recent development of these suburbs, it is difficult to assess the rate of character change within the zone. There has been little major change to the character of these areas in the past 50 years and there appears to be a continued reduction in the rate of change.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Demolition and rebuilding of school buildings; concreting and bricking over front gardens

General management recommendations:

- Preserve institutional buildings contemporary with the original housing development.
- Encourage alterations to buildings to be undertaken in a manner that does not detract from the original housing style.
- Maintain and enhance legible features within this zone where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape e.g. street patterns fossilising former field boundaries, earlier properties.

Early to Mid 20th Century Municipal Suburbs/ Municipal Suburbs/ Late 20th Century Municipal Suburbs

Location:

Municipal housing zones are found within the districts of Barnsley, Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster. Within Sheffield and Doncaster the zones have been separated into early and late municipal suburbs.

Brief Description:

Early 20th century estates tend to be built in radial patterns with housing consisting of semi-detached properties or short row terraces. In Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley this pattern of housing tend to continue into the late 20th century. In Sheffield, late 20th century municipal developments often consisted of large system built concrete blocks of flats.

This landscape may contain:

Field boundary patterns fossilised in the layout of roads and property boundaries; examples of early municipal housing styles; nationally important examples of system built municipal housing.

Recent changes include:

Infilling with private housing developments; demolition of system built and high rise housing; de-Radburnisation of 1960s coalfield estates; private ownership of properties.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

These zones are very recent in development. This makes it difficult to assess the trajectory of change as data currently only shows a reduction of change after the second phase of municipal development in the late 20th century.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Clearance of areas of housing considered run-down; removal of communal green spaces; replacement of radial road patterns with cul-de-sacs in 'cottage estates'; recladding of flat.

General management recommendations:

- Assess areas of housing for completeness and rarity prior to redevelopment plans.
- Maintain and enhance legible features within this zone where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape e.g. street patterns fossilising former field boundaries. This is particularly important where little legibility of past landscapes remains.

Late 20th Century Private Suburbs

Location:

This zone is widely dispersed across the districts of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. This type of housing is found within nearly all settlements, often located on the edges of the settlement.

Brief Description:

Semi-detached and detached housing built in large estates. Road patterns are generally cul-de-sacs and most properties have a private drive. Housing styles are similar across the region.

This landscape may contain:

Fragments of fossilised field boundary patterns.

Recent changes include:

This zone is very recent in development. This makes it difficult to assess the trajectory of change.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

This zone continues to grow. Estates tend to be large but there are sometimes surviving boundary features within them.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Removal of surviving fossilised field patterns.

General management recommendations:

- Maintain and enhance legible features within this zone where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape e.g. street patterns fossilising former field boundaries. This is particularly important where little legibility of the past landscape remains.

Industrial/ 18th and 19th Century Industrial Grids

Location:

The industrial zone is predominantly located along the river valleys of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. Within Sheffield the earlier industrial developments have been separated from the later heavy industries.

Brief Description:

Active and disused industrial sites ranging from small water-powered mills to large industrial complexes housed in large metal sheds.

This landscape may contain:

Early examples of industrial structures and processes; strong patterns of grid-iron housing development; a range of industrial buildings from the 18th century onwards; buried remains of former industrial phases.

Recent changes include:

Expansion and development of new buildings on industrial sites.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

The rate of change within the industrial zones is slowing. This represents the continued industrial use of many sites and the preservation of buildings from disused industries. This pattern of stabilisation is not necessarily typical; outside of this zone many former industrial buildings have been demolished. The late 20th century saw a reduction in the area of land occupied by heavy and light metal trades, water-powered industries, chemical industries, craft industries, potteries and the textile industry.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Demolition of early industrial buildings; replacement of brick structures with corrugated metal and composite cladding materials.

General management recommendations:

- Assess industrial sites for their rarity or completeness prior to redevelopment plans.
- Consider options for the retention and re-use of industrial buildings
- Design of new developments should take into consideration the links between industrial sites and contemporary workers housing.
- Maximise opportunities for improving access and interpretation; industrial development is a key part of the story of South Yorkshire.
- Preserve the legibility of industrial processes where sites are subject to regeneration, e.g. retaining some buildings, chimneys, etc. This is particularly important where nearby settlements are intimately linked with the industrial establishment.

Post-Industrial

Location:

This zone is located in the districts of Barnsley, Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster. The zone is generally found along the river valleys in areas that were formerly used by industry and coal extraction. There are also concentrations of this zone near to the main roads and motorways across South Yorkshire.

Brief Description:

The zone is dominated by late 20th century landscapes of retail, distribution, leisure, light industry and transport. Many of these are on areas of former industry or coal extraction.

This landscape may contain:

Extant remains of railway lines; colliery spoil heaps; early industrial buildings; grid-iron street patterns; water-powered sites; modern commercial and transport developments; car parking and warehousing; leisure and retail facilities.

Recent changes include:

This zone's character is recently formed / forming.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

This zone is still growing at a significant rate.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Flattening of surviving spoil heaps; demolition of surviving industrial structures; introduction of a variety of new architectural forms and materials.

General management recommendations:

- Assess and record surviving colliery and industrial buildings. Surviving buildings should be strongly considered for preservation and imaginative reuse.
- Efforts should be made to preserve the legibility of industry and colliery sites where they are subject to regeneration. This may include retaining some buildings, shaft caps, areas of partially landscaped spoil heaps, routes of railway lines, etc. This is particularly important where a nearby settlement is intimately linked with the industry or colliery.

Late 20th Century Replanned Centres

Location:

This zone is found near to the urban core of the settlements of Doncaster, Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham.

Brief Description:

Largely commercial areas that were built from the 1960s onwards. These developments completely overwrote the previous landscape.

This landscape may contain:

Examples of early post-war regeneration.

Recent changes include:

Redevelopment of commercial buildings; construction of city centre flats; gradual remediation of severance effects caused by roads, e.g. infilling of underpasses; recladding and renewal of brutalist structures.

Rate and scale of recent change in these areas:

The majority of this zone dates to the mid 20th century making the recent rate of change a decline on the earlier rate of change (as the zone developed). However, there are still fairly considerable alterations occurring in this zone.

Examples of future changes that may affect the character of the area:

Removal of remaining elements of earlier landscapes; piecemeal removal of post-war planned buildings and streets.

General management recommendations:

- Assess areas for good examples of post-war replanning, which could be preserved and enhanced.
- Maintain and enhance legible features within this zone where they provide evidence of time depth in the landscape e.g. street patterns fossilising former field boundaries.

How Historic Environment Characterisation (HEC) data can be used

HEC data can be used in a variety of ways. A selection of these opportunities are outlined below, alongside examples of the use of characterisation data to date within South Yorkshire.

Development Control

HEC data can form an important component in the preparation and assessment of planning applications. It expands upon the information in the existing Sites and Monument Record (SMR) and so provides a wider baseline of information to be considered in advance of making a planning decision. The archaeological advisors to the local planning authority will utilise the Historic Environment Characterisation data, along with SMR data, when making general recommendations during pre-application discussions or when commenting on an application. Consultants can access the characterisation data when preparing desk-based assessments and Environment Impact Assessments (EIA), to assess the impact of a proposed development.

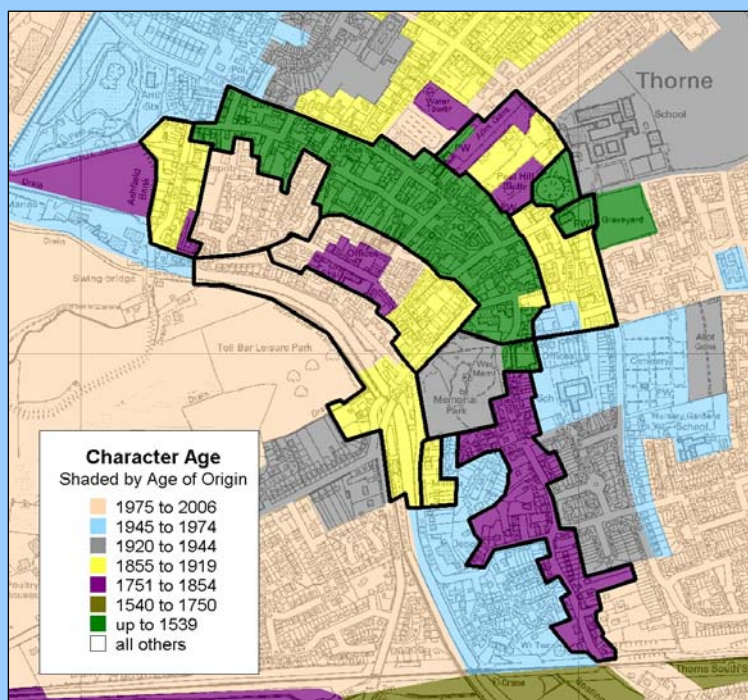


Figure 414: HEC age of character map overlying modern OS mapping.

Case Study 1: Complex historic town core of Thorne, Doncaster

HEC data was used by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service to make planning recommendations on an application site within Thorne. HEC data showed the site to be located within the complex historic core of Thorne, whose layout is characteristic of a medieval planned settlement. This, along with buildings on the proposal site being shown on historic maps, led to a recommendation that an

enhanced desk-based assessment (considering both standing and buried archaeological potential) needed to be submitted, prior to a decision being made on the application. Such additional information will allow an informed planning decision to be made.

Conservation Area Appraisals

Government has indicated that local authorities should undertake to designate areas of “special architectural or historic significance” as Conservation Areas to protect and enhance their character⁶. These areas remain under review. Characterisation and an understanding of the historic development of an area are important aspects to consider when designating or amending Conservation Area status (English Heritage 2005, 12). HEC data can form the basis of more detailed research into an area’s historic development and also provide a wider landscape context to the area under appraisal. South Yorkshire HEC data was fed into recent Conservation Area appraisals in Sheffield and Doncaster and is currently being used by Rotherham Conservation to inform their ongoing work.

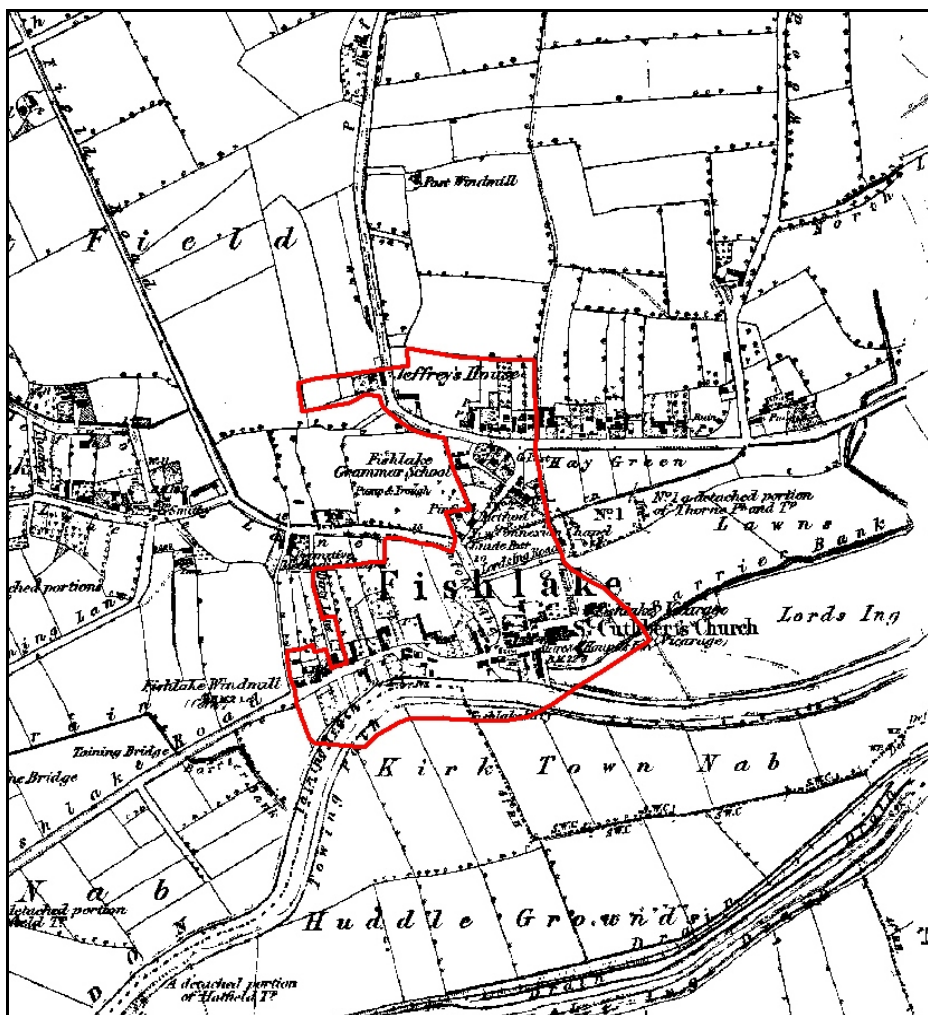


Figure 415: Fishlake Conservation Area (red boundary) overlying 1854 OS mapping of the village.

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⁶ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (c.9), Part II, 69

Land Management

The approach of Historic *Landscape* Characterisation was originally restricted to rural areas, but the value of characterisation projects informing the management of urban locations was then recognised (Clark *et al* 2004). An advantage of the South Yorkshire Historic *Environment* Characterisation project is that both large and small settlements across the county have been characterised, along with their rural surroundings. The rural landscape cannot be considered as a separate entity to urban development as, from an early stage, the demands of urban centres directly affected the activities in the surrounding countryside. The HEC data allows an integrated approach to be taken in South Yorkshire. The benefit of Historic Environment Characterisation on some of the current landscape management systems are outlined below.

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship schemes are delivered by Natural England on behalf of the Government. The schemes provide financial incentives to farmers and land owners to maintain and enhance the environmental and historic elements of their land. The South Yorkshire Archaeology Service provides HEC data as part of the assessment of archaeological significance.

Case Study 2: Thorpe-In-Balne, Doncaster

As part of the development of a farm environment plan (FEP) for a higher level Stewardship application in Thorpe-In-Balne, the HEC data for the area was consulted. This indicated that much of the landscape in this area had links with the shrunken medieval settlement of Thorpe-in-Balne and nearby moated manor. Medieval agricultural patterns were still legible, with areas of ridge and furrow earthworks surviving. Part of the Stewardship scheme has seen areas of ridge and furrow protected by the restoration of semi-improved grasslands. This protects the earthworks from damage by modern ploughing whilst also enhancing the botanical diversity of the area.

Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is based on a similar process to historic characterisation. It aims to understand differences in local landscapes and open spaces and provide information for appropriate management of our surroundings (Swanwick & Land Use Consultant 2002). Historic characterisation differs from LCA in that it focuses on 'types' of landscape character "rather than.... discrete heterogeneous areas" (Swanwick 2002, 2). Parts of South Yorkshire have already been covered by an LCA but it will be important for further LCA projects to integrate data from the HEC project. Studies have shown that "work which combines the two approaches is likely to produce the most satisfactory results" (ibid).

Biodiversity Action Plans

Our landscape has been highly influenced by the activities of humans over thousands of years. The seemingly 'natural' environment is full of examples where human action has actually affected the character of the area. This means that the targets of Biodiversity Action Plans should consider the influence of the historic environment. For example, Rotherham's Biodiversity Action Plan states the desire to "promote re-establishment of hedgerows on historic boundaries" (McCarthy 2001, 3asrh).

Case Study 3: Rotherham Ancient Hedgerows Survey

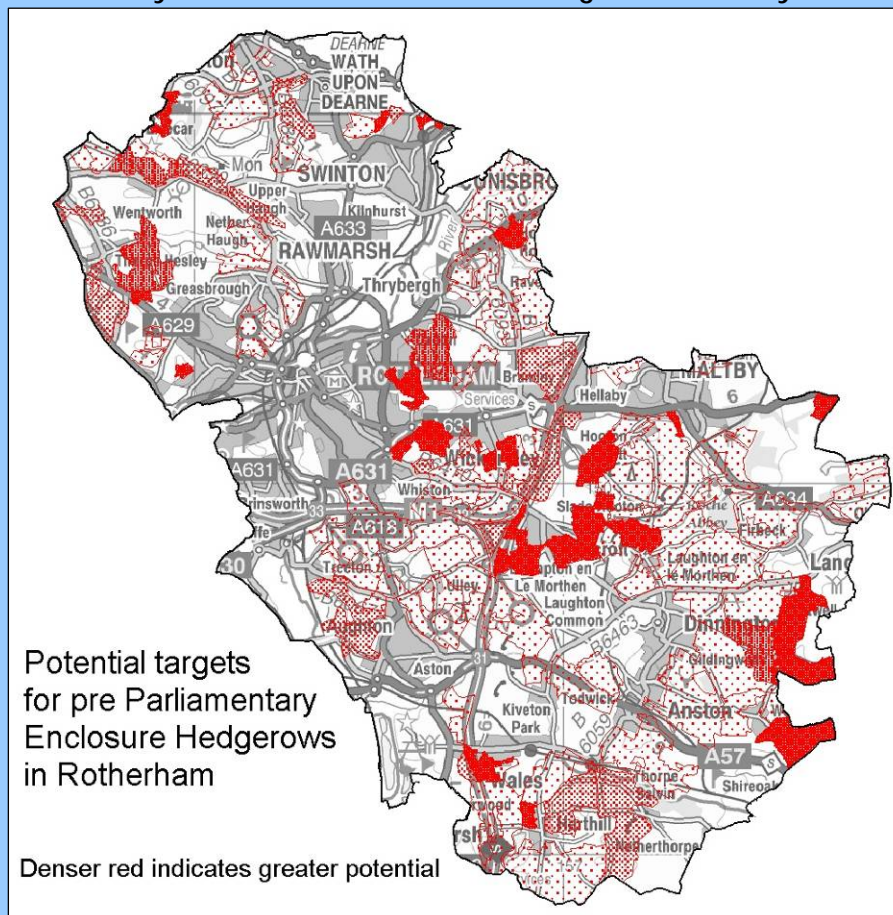


Figure 416:
HEC data
provided for
Rotherham's
hedgerow survey.

One of the aims of Rotherham MBC's Biodiversity Action Plan is to establish a register of ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows. HEC data was provided to assist in the process of identifying these. Areas of enclosure pre-dating the Parliamentary Enclosure awards, i.e. earlier than c.1750, were identified and then assessed for levels of recent boundary loss. This appraisal of the HEC data will give a good indication of areas with a high potential for ancient boundary survival. The results will allow Rotherham MBC to prioritise their survey work.

Strategic Planning

The integration of historic character into Local Development Frameworks, through the inclusion of appropriate policies, and in other regional strategic planning mechanisms is vital to the successful future development of our towns and countryside. Planning Policy Guidance 15 explicitly states that;

“planning policies....should take account of the historical dimension of the landscape as a whole rather than concentrate on selected areas. Adequate understanding is an essential preliminary and authorities should assess the wider historic landscape at an early stage in development plan preparation. Plans should protect its most important components and encourage development that is consistent with maintaining its overall historic character” (DOE/DNH 1994, Para 2.26).

Historic Environment Characterisation data provides this wider, integrated picture and is already being brought into greater involvement in strategic planning. Specific examples of this involvement are considered below.

Design

Recent building design documents and planning policy have emphasised the value of local distinctiveness in producing successful housing developments (CABE and HDF 2007; CLG 2006, Para 14 and 16), along with the understanding that our surroundings directly impact upon our quality of life (ODPM 2005, para 18). The character of an individual area often develops from many different historic processes; each may leave their mark on the landscape, creating a complex pattern of time depth. This patterning is part of what makes an area unique. Modern building and design should work with these patterns, preserving or enhancing them to retain the rich historic dimensions of an area.

Case Study 4: Sheffield's Residential Design Guide

Sheffield City Council is developing a Design Guide that will provide standards of design and construction for residential areas within Sheffield.

The Design Guide project team recognise the importance of the historic environment in helping form a distinctive 'sense of place' and that, in turn, a sense of place makes up an important part of the development of a successful and sustainable neighbourhood.

In the early stages of the production of the Design Guide, HEC data was used to identify areas across the city with similar street and housing characteristics. This made use of HEC data that describes individual historic character types and dates of development. Following this analysis, the Design Guide team can better target their detailed surveys, to develop design strategies for the city.

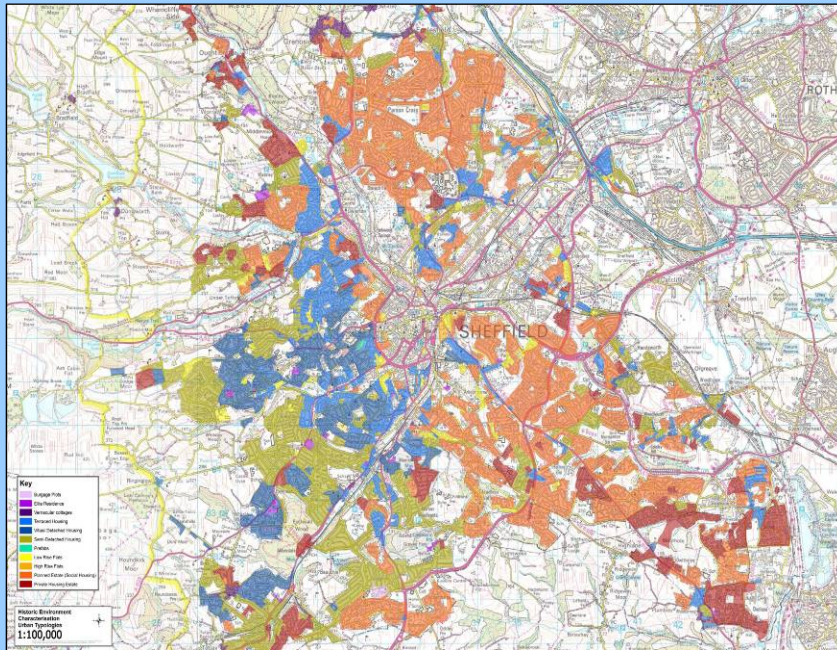


Figure 417:
HEC data being used by Sheffield's Urban Design team to map types of residential urban character in the city.

HEC data is well suited to providing a broad base of information that spans all types of landscapes, not just residential. Open spaces may be designed landscapes that contain structures and features specifically designed to enhance and highlight aspects of that landscape, but any open space has the potential to preserve a variety of features relating to previous use of the land, including field boundaries, building remains, etc. The landscaping involved in creating some of recreational facilities may have impacted on the existing landscape, but in others earlier features are likely to be well preserved. The development of strategies to manage and enhance green and open spaces will, therefore, benefit from considering the results of the historic environment characterisation project.

Case Study 5: Sheffield Green and Open Spaces Strategy



Figure 418:
Using HEC data to
plan a possible
cycleway/
walkway around
Darnall (image
based on one
provided by Steve
Dobson).

HEC data has been provided to Sheffield City Council's Parks and Countryside department, to aid in their development of a Green and Open Spaces Strategy (GOSS). Consideration of the historic environment was built into the strategy outline, including assessment of historic features within parks and development of an understanding of the historic relationships between urban green spaces and adjoining residential areas.

Through collaboration with Steve Dobson, a PhD student from Sheffield University's Department of Landscape, the GOSS benefited from detailed analysis of the historic character of the current landscape. One of the outcomes of this was the development of a possible cycleway/walkway to link urban green spaces back to residential areas whilst also providing information on past landscapes.

Community Consultation

An important stage in the development process, especially where major change is involved, is public consultation. Government planning policy makes it clear that

“(l)ocal communities should be given the opportunity to participate fully in the process for drawing up specific plans or policies and to be consulted on proposals for development” (ODPM 2005, 16).

The information gathered by the HEC project can be a valuable part of this process. It provides an opportunity to widen peoples understanding of how their immediate surroundings have changed over time and allows them to recognise that remnants of the past survive across the modern landscape. This will give communities an informed basis for decision making and help them develop a better connection with their surroundings.

Case Study 6: Page Hall Regeneration, Sheffield

In 2005 Burngreave and Fir Vale in east Sheffield were subject to a Masterplanning exercise. This process identified Page Hall (in Fir Vale East) as an area for further study and community involvement, after local opposition to initial proposals for housing demolition (Landscape Associates 2005, 78). The regeneration of the area was designed to see “physical improvements to the streets, houses and connections to Page Hall’s environs” (Camlin Lonsdale 2007, 2).

As part of this study of the Page Hall neighbourhood, HEC data was used by consultants to understand the urban development of the area, to “unlock the potential” (Camlin Lonsdale 2007, 3) of the area.

Page Hall is made up of a mix of early 20th century terraced housing and 1980s estate housing. There are also many surviving features from earlier periods including: field boundary patterns from former agricultural land use, a 19th century Hall and contemporary farm buildings, ancient woodland, and an Iron Age hillfort on Wincobank Hill.

This information helped to identify potential community assets that could better integrated into the residential areas. This information was also valuable in gathering community interest in the public consultation stage. Because HEC data covers the whole of the landscape, not just areas perceived as ‘special’, all neighbourhoods have access to stories about the history of where they live. The multi-cultural community of Page Hall can now feel a direct connection to the history of the city through an understanding of the development of their immediate surroundings.

Education

There is great potential for the results of the HEC project to be used as an educational tool. Because Historic Environment Characterisation draws information from the current landscape and highlights surviving historic features, children or adult education groups can be trained to see such features in their own surroundings. A potential schools project could involve documenting historic features in the area around the school.

Case Study 7: South Yorkshire *Young Archaeology Day* 2006



Figure 419:
1905 OS map,
Meersbrook,
Sheffield.

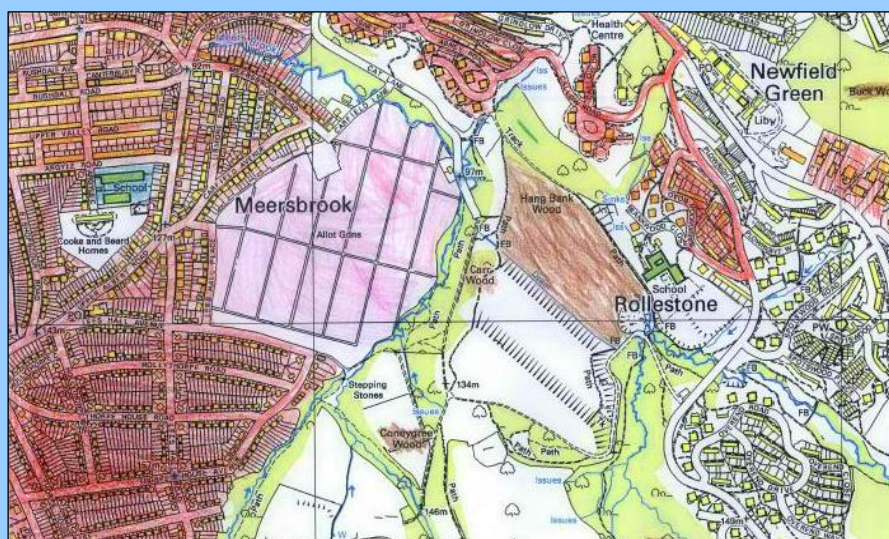


Figure 420:
2005 OS map,
Meersbrook,
Sheffield.

Members of the Young Archaeologists Clubs' in South Yorkshire were asked to have a go at characterising the landscape of Meersbrook. This gave them the opportunity to think about how the environment has changed through time. The work helped them to develop map reading, history and observational skills.

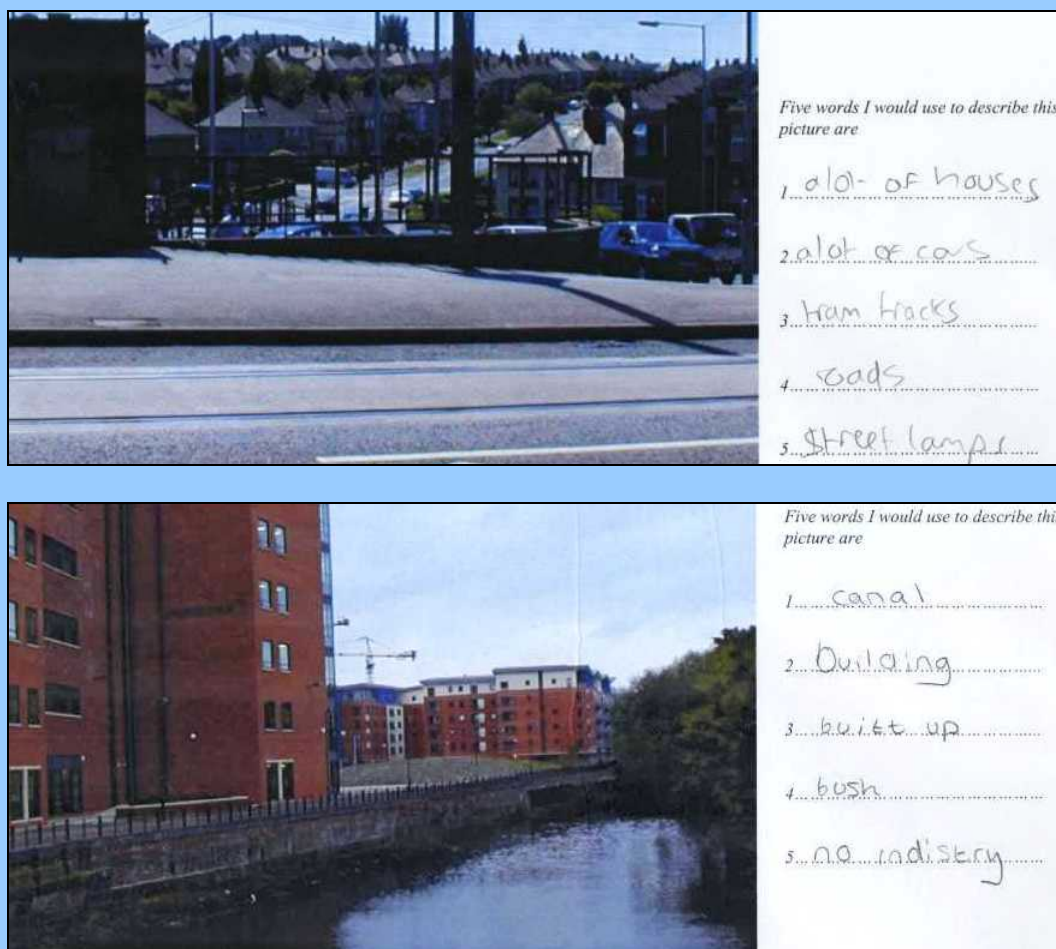


Figure 421 and figure 422: an assessment of different contemporary landscapes made by members of the Young Archaeologist Clubs. These images were compared with archive images of the same area.

Research

The results of the Historic Environment Characterisation project provide the first comprehensive review of the wider historic environment of South Yorkshire ever to take place. As a result, it has provided an invaluable opportunity to identify some key areas for future study. The HEC project concentrated on aspects of the historic environment that are most visible and so, as a rule, are largely above ground level. Therefore, the research areas discussed also concentrate on these aspects. However, wider archaeological research priorities are considered where the project has shown there are obvious gaps in our knowledge as a result of historically observable developments.

Prehistoric patterns: On the whole there appears to be very little continuity between late prehistoric field systems and medieval open fields. The 'brickwork' pattern of prehistoric fields covered extensive areas of the landscape and it is likely they survived as landscape features that were still visible in the early medieval period. Are there surviving examples of these patterns in the present day landscape? Is the apparent discontinuity seen today misleading, i.e. because crop marks (of buried boundary ditches) show better where fields haven't had much ploughing (i.e. where they were woodlands and commons in the medieval and early post-medieval periods).

Landscape and society: Between the late Iron Age/Romano-British period and the early medieval period there were substantial changes to the landscape of South Yorkshire. Brickwork field systems gave way to a pattern of open fields and dispersed settlement, which generally then became more nucleated. Was this change enforced or made by agreement? How and why were so many new settlements founded and when were the open field systems created? Can the boundaries of Saxon estate such as Hallamshire, Morthen and Balne be detected by detailed analysis of existing boundaries and place name evidence?

Open field variation within South Yorkshire: The historic environment characterisation project suggests there were differences between the scale of open field systems in the east and west of the county. Are the smaller *townfields* of places like Carlecotes and Ingbirchworth examples of small-scale common arable systems or do they represent something else?

The assartment of woodland and moors: How old are areas of assarted enclosure? What does the higher frequency of medieval farmstead buildings here tell us?

Ploughing damage: The damaging effect of deep modern ploughing on the archaeological record is well recognised. What was the effect of traditional ploughing on archaeological sites and how has this affected the surviving record?

Surveyed Enclosure: When did the process of Surveyed Enclosure begin? Can any evidence for squatter settlements cleared during the enclosure period be demonstrated? What can we learn from a more detailed study of the layouts of enclosure period farmsteads? Can evidence be found that commons and greens were enclosed to produce building plots, rather than fields? Was there a plan to expand settlements in this way or was new settlement just opportune development?

Woodland surveys: The in-depth studies of ancient woodlands within the South Yorkshire Forest during the Fuelling the Revolution project has shown extensive earthwork survival in South Yorkshire's woodlands. Expansion of such surveys across the region would greatly expand our understanding of the past use of the South Yorkshire landscape. This extended study would also benefit from further research into former woodland management practices.

Mapping of housing tenure: Can we develop better typologies for studying domestic houses, i.e. what are the differences between houses built for rent, houses built for sale, houses built to order, etc? How are relationships between owners and workers, landlords and tenants represented in the historic environment? How are the aspirations of the people who developed Freehold Land Society properties reflected in their designs?

Workers and industry: Can the relationship between workers housing and associated industry be clarified? Why did the coal industry develop model housing when the steel industry did not? What differences are there between model garden settlements and early 20th century council housing?

Industrial South Yorkshire: Why did Doncaster not industrialise as early as Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley? Why is the industrial pattern of the Dearne Valley so mixed - with glass, potteries, coal, chemicals, etc? Why were the Sheffield trades so reluctant to modernise?

Regeneration opportunities and the historic environment: How can former industrial areas and extractive sites remain legible in the modern landscape without proscribing future change and reuse?