

# Landscape value

## The evolving definition

**Tony Williams**, President, IFLA Europe

Principal Landscape Architect, Transport Infrastructure, Ireland

**Jill Bullen**, Senior Landscape Specialist, Natural Resources Wales

**Chris Bolton**, Principal Specialist, Landscape, Natural England

**Neil Rainey**, DAERA Northern Ireland Environment Agency

**Deborah Sandals**, Scottish Natural Heritage



**#VLConf2018**

# The United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Inter-agency Landscape Monitoring Group & Statement

## Key benefits

*Coordination of efforts*  
*Strength through cooperation*  
*Potential synergies*  
*Differences highlighted*  
*Variations accommodated*  
*Strategic objectives aligned*  
*Consistency ensured*  
*Collaboration*  
*Pooling knowledge*  
*Experience shared*  
*Good Practice*  
*Building capacity between us*  
*Raising awareness*  
*Communicating change*  
*Evidence based Actions*

## 4 Key themes

### Sharing monitoring programmes

and aligning over time

### Understanding landscape change

in an objective manner

### Sharing knowledge

### Planning & policies based on

evidence from landscape monitoring

**The United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland  
Inter-agency Landscape Monitoring Statement**

**Benefits of Inter-agency collaboration in landscape monitoring**  
As statutory advisors, consultees and leads on landscape monitoring within our respective agencies there is a need for strategic join-up to enable recognition of 'the bigger picture' about landscape change trends. This is especially relevant to the closely related physical and cultural landscapes of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. The aims, aspirations and ethos of the Inter-agency Landscape Monitoring Group align with the Council of Europe European Landscape Convention <http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/home>

**Sharing monitoring programmes**

- Provides opportunities for an element of consistency within a UK and Republic of Ireland framework
- Potential for coordinated strategic planning of monitoring programmes
- Understanding differences in approach, innovation and emphasis may reveal wider benefits
- Collaboration can work on many levels responding to differences in available resources and requirements
- Enhanced potential for joint programmes and bids for funding (e.g. nationally/internationally)

**Understanding landscape change**


- Scope to consider themes of change and variations
  - How landscapes are changing, what has changed, nature of change
  - Why change has occurred
  - Where change is occurring, key trends and drivers
  - Significance and scale of change, incremental change, cumulative change
  - Tangible change, perceptual changes, character and qualities
  - People's responses to change in local landscapes
- Potential to align some headline indicators to build a comparable picture across different countries and for various themes e.g. Upland Landscapes

**Sharing knowledge**

- Pooling professional knowledge, understanding and experience
- Closer collaboration can support small teams working on monitoring with a common understanding
- Monitoring team ethos (or 'observatory' of landscape change) bolstering capacity
- Demonstrate and share good practice
- Raising awareness and communicating change

**Planning & policy**

- Informing the delivery of evidence based information and advice
- Understanding change to inform strategic planning, policies, reviews of statutory plans and decision making
- Informing natural resource management, integrating cultural services and the ecosystem approach, linking across borders
- Appraising implications for landscape quality objectives



# Our landscapes are changing & values evolving

Monitoring and mapping techniques



Identify trends



Understand challenges



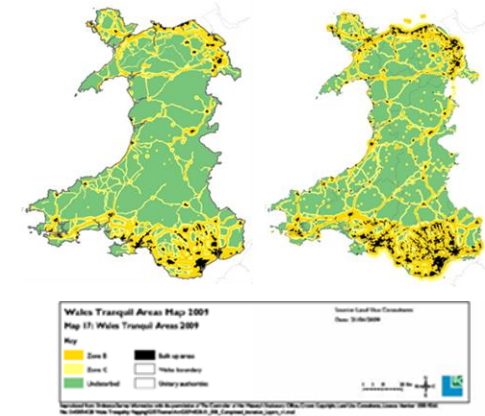
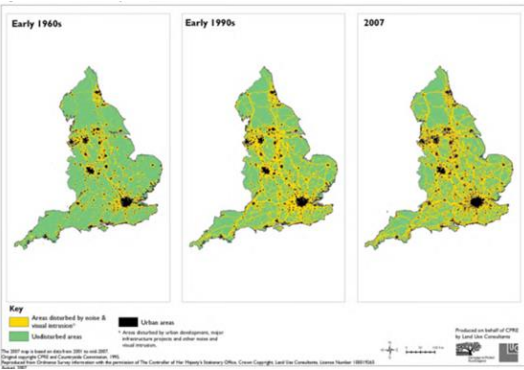
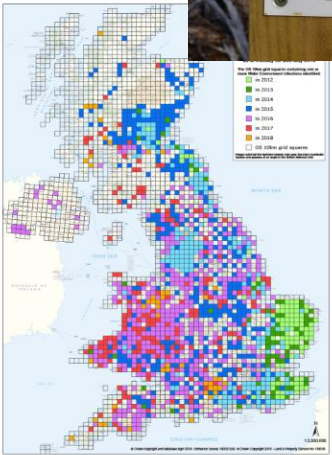
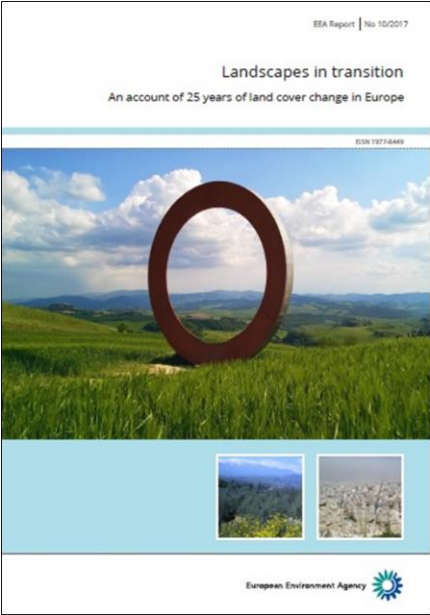
Inform landscape policy and management



- **How** are landscapes are changing? What is the **Nature** of change?
- **Why** and **where** is change occurring? What are the Key **trends and drivers**?
- What is the **Significance** and scale of change?
- People's **responses** to changes in local landscapes

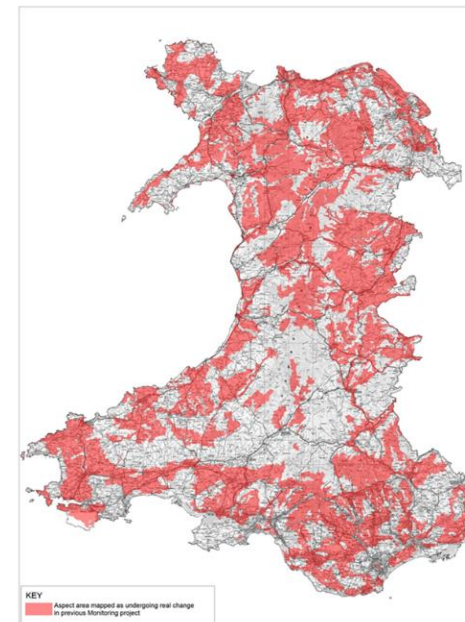
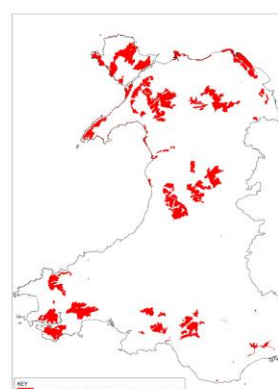
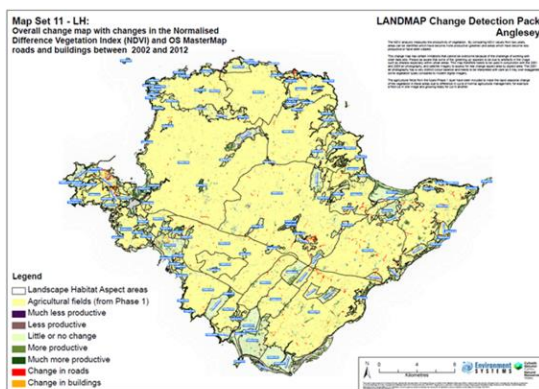
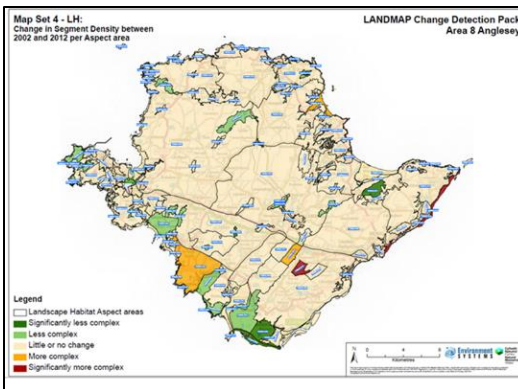
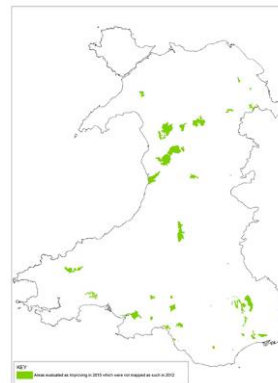
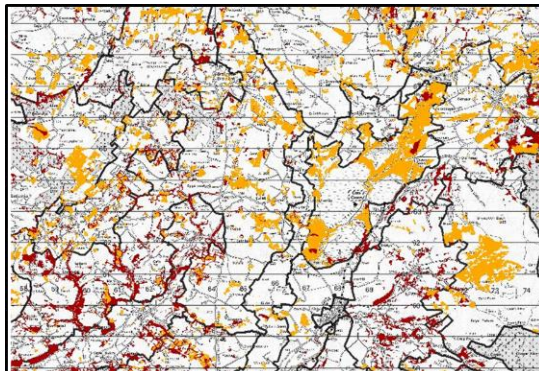
# Landscape change monitoring & mapping

## Evidence based methodologies for change detection



# Landscape change monitoring & mapping - Wales

**LANDMAP Change Detection + Impact on the landscape = Update records + Analyse trends**



# Identifying changes & trends: Housing, business, transport

## ***Urban and peri urban expansion***

- Urban expansion occurring widely in the region
- Population growth, changing household size
- European urban population 72%, project 80%+ by 2050

## ***Rural settlement expansion and business growth***

- Cumulative and incremental change from dispersed new dwellings
- Demand in high quality coastal, countryside and market towns
- Peri urban in rural areas impacting tranquillity, communication/energy infrastructure
- Linked to road infrastructure and improvements, GB traffic high 2016, across urban
- UK low rate of development (0.14%) ~ ½ European average



# Landscape change monitoring & mapping - Scotland

## Scotland's Landscape Monitoring Programme – new and existing data to monitor change

**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
**SCOTLAND'S LANDSCAPE MONITORING PROGRAMME: an introduction**

**Introduction**

Scotland's Landscape Monitoring Programme reports on aspects of landscape change in Scotland. It is a national programme involving several partners and covering a range of landscapes representing the diversity of Scotland's landscapes. The development of the programme contributes directly to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Scotland as well as the landscape component of the *Scottish Environmental Action Plan*. The programme is led and coordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage.

**What is landscape and why should we monitor it?**

Landscape is defined as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and human factors. (Council of Europe 2000). This definition includes all our landscapes – not only the managed or valued, but also the everyday places where we live and work.

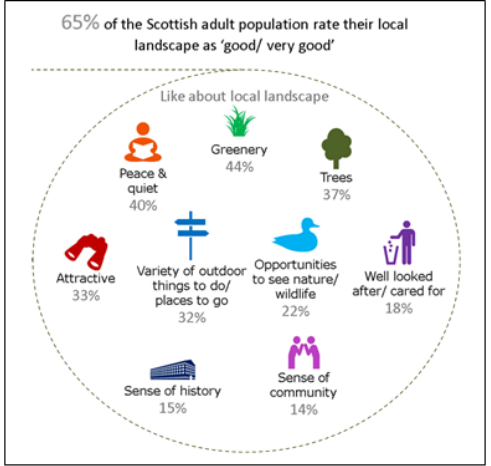
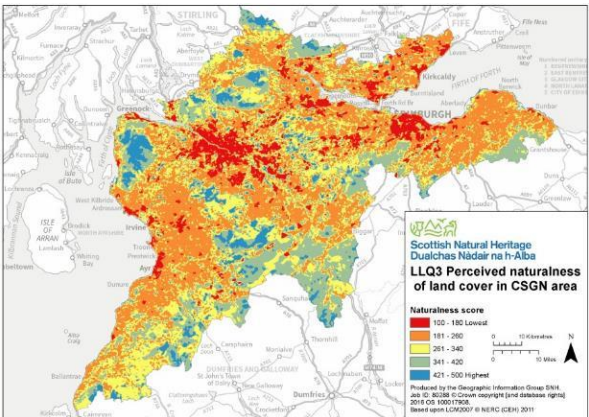
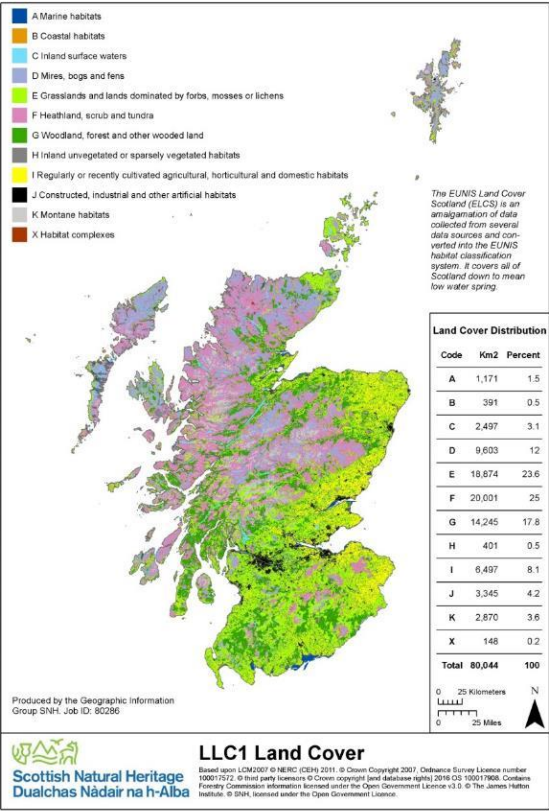
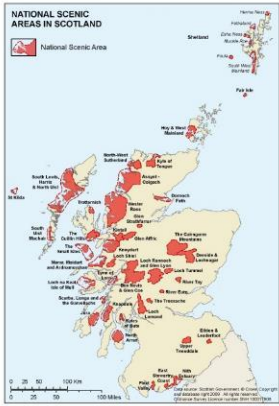
This modern approach to landscape – illustrated by the cover design (right) – encompasses both the physical landscape of place (such as mountains, rivers, woodland and buildings) as well as a range of influences that can influence our response to these components (such as character, aesthetics and cultural associations).

Landscape is an important part of our natural and cultural heritage that contributes significantly to making Scotland a better place to live, work and visit. Good landscape helps to support our health and well-being. This direct and indirect connection between landscape and our lives helps to provide jobs and help grow our economy. Good landscape change can help to maximise these social and economic benefits.

Scotland's Landscape Monitoring Programme will allow us to assess better how our landscape is changing and to identify key trends and their significance in terms of how people feel about them and respond to them.

**The Geographic Information Group**  
The Geographic Information Group is responsible for the development and management of the landscape monitoring programme.

**Scottish Natural Heritage**



# Identifying changes & trends: Landscape Habitats

## *Habitat Loss and diversity*

- Loss of semi natural land to development expansion affecting landscape structure and character
- Increased number, distribution, size wind farms often forested/semi natural uplands
- Loss to forestry - most powerful driver of change in UK
- 97% UK flower rich grasslands lost since 1940's - serious decline in habitats
- Large areas declining and damaged peatlands
- Increased fragmentation of habitats, smaller areas habitats
- Reduced connectivity from development and land use pressures



# Identifying changes & trends: Forestry & Woodland

## *Changing species, colour and diversity, impacts on views and vistas*

- Changing emphasis conifers to broadleaves as edge & main species
- Previously alien or uncommon becoming commonplace
- Increasing hold from invasive alien species
- Perceptions on the 'naturalness' of the landscape
- Revised forest design at maturity - edges, diversity, open areas
- Monotone dark green integrated with muted greys and browns
- Loss of Winter colour from Larch, 'Greener' earlier, effect on screening
- Loss of hedgerow trees – acute effect of Ash Dieback in Ireland



# Identifying changes & trends: Agricultural Landscapes

## *Alteration of land use patterns, local character, quality*

- Land take - arable, permanent crops, pasture, mosaic
- Slowing/reversal of intensive agriculture impacts
- Water induced issues e.g. erosion, storage, parched, crop marks
- Diversification & conversion of traditional buildings
- Infrastructure & impacts equestrian, pigs & poultry
- New crops, forage and biomass Vs semi natural vegetation
- Cumulative effects from wind and solar energy
- Changing hedgerows/trees - decreased management & decline



Great sense of history and heritage, traditional community

# Identifying Trends – Common factors – Key messages

*Unprecedented challenges, scale and nature ...changes that may differ from the past 40 years*

- When **trends are concentrated** - not a small local change but a significant **cumulative** change
- **Complex** issues and varying **resilience**
- Changing **fabric, use and experience** of the landscape is becoming commonplace
- Detractors having **adverse effects** on well being, health, tourism and economy
- Increased loss and fragmentation of semi natural habitats at a **significant scale**
- **Key role for features** (hedgerows/trees/ponds) resilience, structure, shade and networks
- Changes more significant if local **character, scale and good design** are not respected
- Value of ready-made landscape evidence to integrate and assist change management

# Identifying challenges .....an evolving list

Climate change	Globalisation
Societal change use	Pressure on land-
Pollution	Rural land take
Competition for natural resources	
Economic crises	Brexit
Urban and infrastructure expansion	
Tranquillity	Fragmentation Diversity
Agricultural change	Stress on trees

## **Example landscape issues in LPAs (Wales 2016)**

Housing allocations

Coastal development (caravans)

Intensive dairy, chicken sheds

Tranquillity & Lighting

Protection NP Special Qualities

Mobile phone masts

Energy developments

Monitoring of approved schemes/capacity/expertise

# Evidence to inform Landscape policy and management

## ***Proactive over reactive landscape change management***

- Integrate high quality evidence from landscape assessments and profiles at a local scale
- Build upon increasing landscape quality if not quantity

## ***Review and develop policies/programmes to***

- accommodate nature, human habitation & industry
- improve benefits and cultural services where people live
- integrate rural land use, land management and land use planning

# Evidence to inform Landscape policy and management

## ***Slow peri urban characteristics (for example)***

- Transition zones, Environmental Lighting Zones, Noise reducing roads, Shared poles

## ***Advocate role of***

- Resilient Transport corridors and Environmental management
- Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature based Solutions (NBS) approaches
- UK Forest Standard to deliver better designed wooded landscapes and new planting targets
- Access to design construction and maintenance standards
- Engaging local communities in how their landscapes are changing (Aarhus Convention)
- Perception of change in/out sector, societal groups, different geographical scales

## European Landscape Convention

National landscape policies unrestricted to the protection of exceptional landscapes but also takes everyday landscapes into consideration

### Landscape and transfrontier cooperation

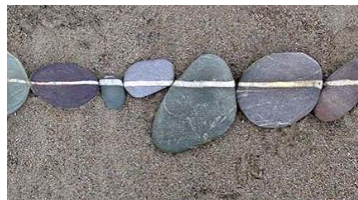
Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2008\)3](#) ELC

*“Transfrontier co-operation may result in joint landscape protection, management and planning programmes and take the form of instruments and measures agreed between the authorities (different administrative levels and general and sectoral competences) and relevant stakeholders on both sides of the border”.*

### Landscape Observatories (laboratories)

[CM/Rec\(2008\)3](#) *“landscape observatories, centres and institutes” are one of the main instruments for the implementation of landscape policies (II.3.3).*

*They allow collection, exchange of information and study protocols between states and local communities.*



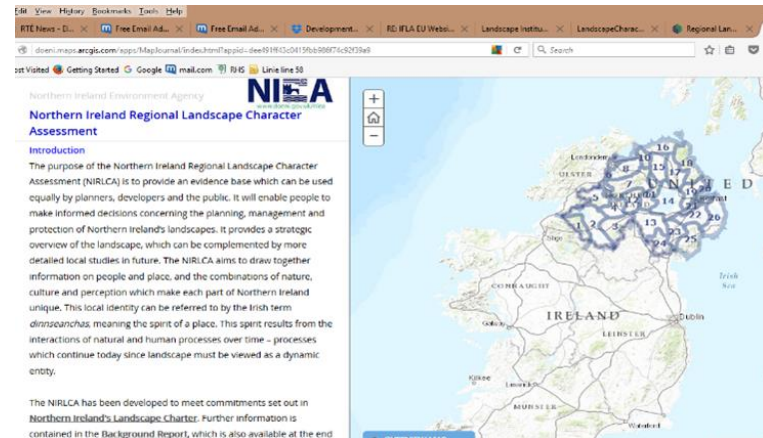
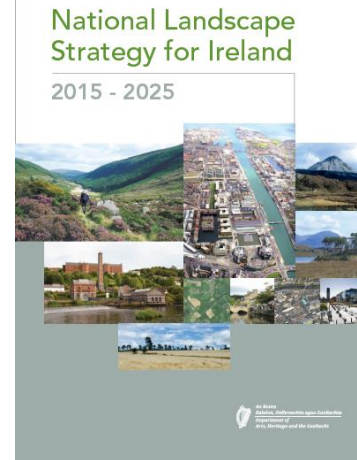
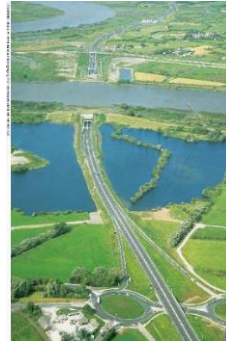
# Landscape, Mapping & Policy – Republic of Ireland

## **National Landscape Strategy objectives**

- Implement European Landscape Convention, integrating landscape into approach to sustainable development
- Establish/embed public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information
- Evidence-based landscape identification and description of the character, resources and processes

## A key action is the development of a **National Landscape Character (LCA) map**

- Establishes the baseline...
- Ties into Northern Ireland Regional LCA Mapping
- Ties into Europe...



## Next steps...Landscape Observatories?

Use monitoring, trends and drivers to convey change and what this means

### ***As a landscape sector we must focus on implementing the ELC***

Health, wellbeing and cultural services derived from landscape

Landscapes where people live

Blue Green infrastructure

Gathering evidence for valuing our natural capital and resources

Advocating well-designed, attractive scaled businesses and developments

### **As a monitoring group we will continue to .....**

Share our experience and what we are trying to do as a collective

Compile and prepare the work for publication focusing on key trends and drivers

Record and continue to develop a baseline of key indicators

work jointly as per the initial statement of cooperation

### **As an individual leaving the conference ..... ?**

*‘Make friends and influence people’*

# Interagency Landscape Monitoring Group

**Tony  
Williams MILI**



An Roinn  
Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of  
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

**Neil  
Rainey CMLI**



Northern Ireland  
Environment  
Agency

**Deborah  
Sandals CMLI**



Scottish Natural Heritage  
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba  
**nature.scot**

**Chris  
Bolton CMLI**



**Jill  
Bullen**



Cymru  
Naturiol  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales