HERICOAST
Interreg Europe

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Natural and Cultural Heritage in Coastal Regions

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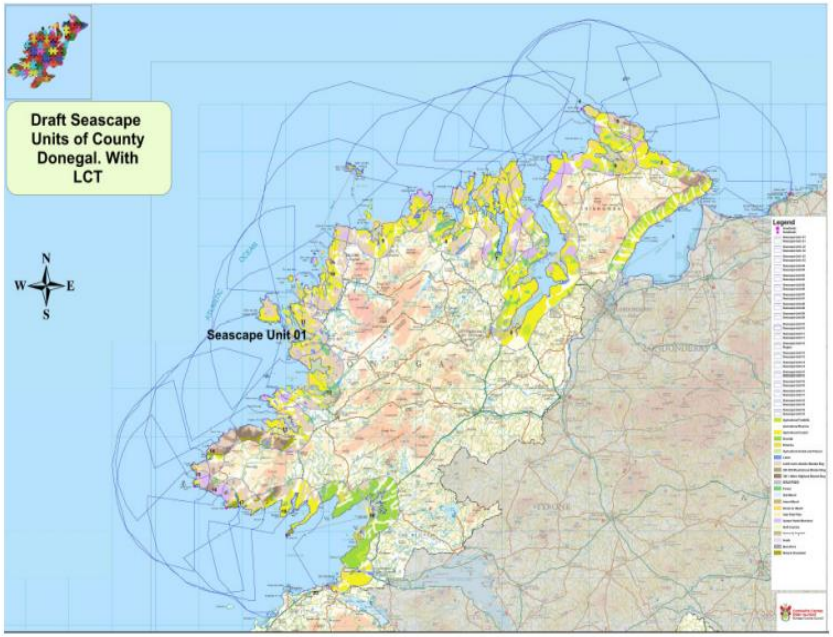
SEASCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



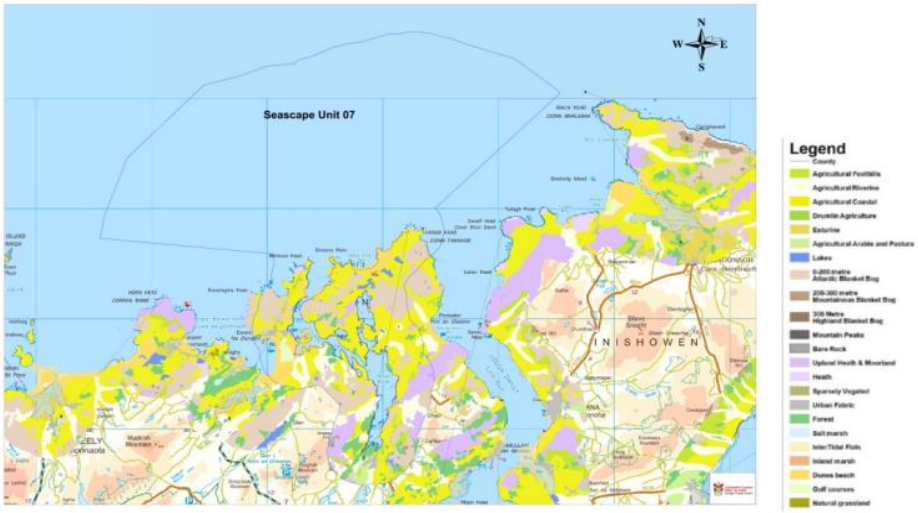
- Spatial layering of coastal data sets
- 19 Seascape Character Units identified from headland to headland, 15km Seaward and 10km inland.
- Separate, parallel and reiterative process to the Landscape Character Assessment in Donegal.
- Can also be a stand alone assessment.
- In excess of 40 spatial data layers include: geology, biodiversity, cultural heritage, coastal landuse, landscape character type and settlements as examples.

SEASCAPE CHARACTER UNIT- what does it consist of?

Narrative of each unit

- Coastal landcover
- Intertidal Area
- Characteristics of Sea
- Hinterland landform and Landcover
- Inter-visibility between Seascape Units
- Lighting
- Key Uses
- Biodiversity
- Cultural Uses

Interactive Mapping



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SEASCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT: how is it useful?

- Uniformity of data and therefore a robust and consistent evidence base.
- Easily evaluated and objective assessment.
- Tool to examine patterns such as clustering of heritage types.
- Used to inform:

a. Policy formulation
b. Decision making,
c. Baseline and background evidence for projects (such as funding applications)

- Collates all coastal heritage data and information within one assessment

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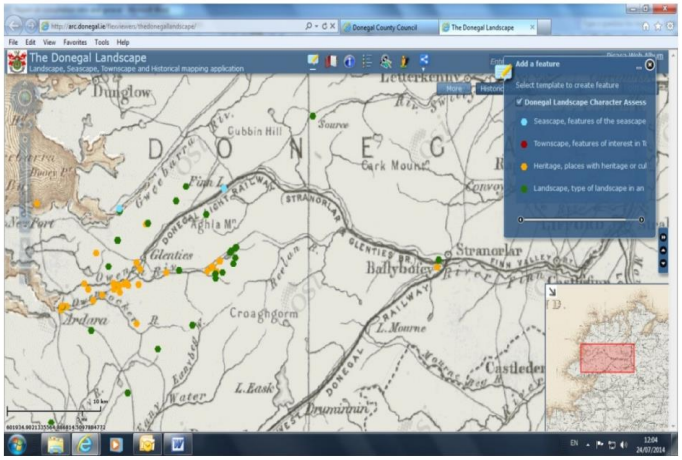
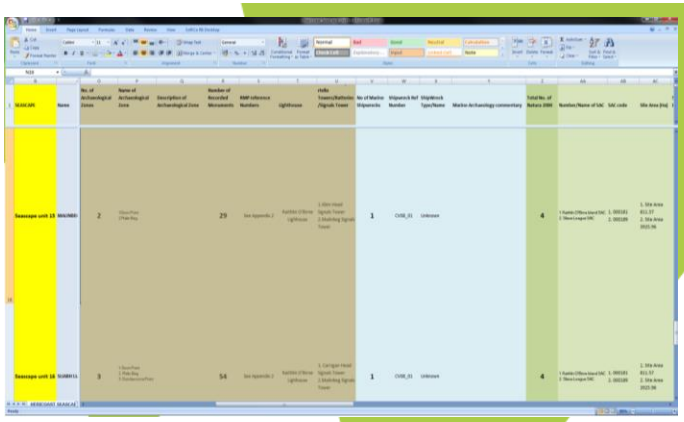
SEASCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT: how it is developed?





Team

- Spatial planner (full time for 1 year)
- GIS specialist (30% for 1 year)
- Heritage architect (50% for 1 year)
- Administrative staff (50% for 1 year)

Significant resourcing:

- Desktop analysis
- Site survey work
- Public participation
- Collating data

1 year project
Prepared in-house by Donegal County Council.

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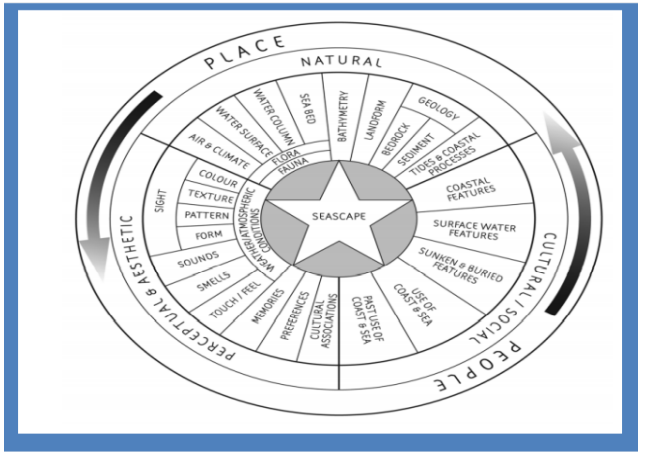
SEASCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT: Transferability

- Transferable Methodology
- Variable Component Parts
- Lead partner of the HERICOAST project, Vest-Agder choose this as Best Practice Example securing extra funding to prepare similar (but smaller scale) assessment in their region of Norway.
- Baseline mapping is fundamental to the process
- Mitigates against decision making on single sector base
- Holistic and specific information



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SEASCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT: benefits and conclusion

Informs and provides an objectiveand informed evidence base for :

- Cross-sectoral knowledge exchange to inform future intervention and assessment opportunities.
- Informed Policy Formulation.
- Informed decision making.
- Adaption and further development to inform future projects and plans.
- Ability to change as and when new data sets and/or improved datasets become available.

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Thank you

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Project smedia