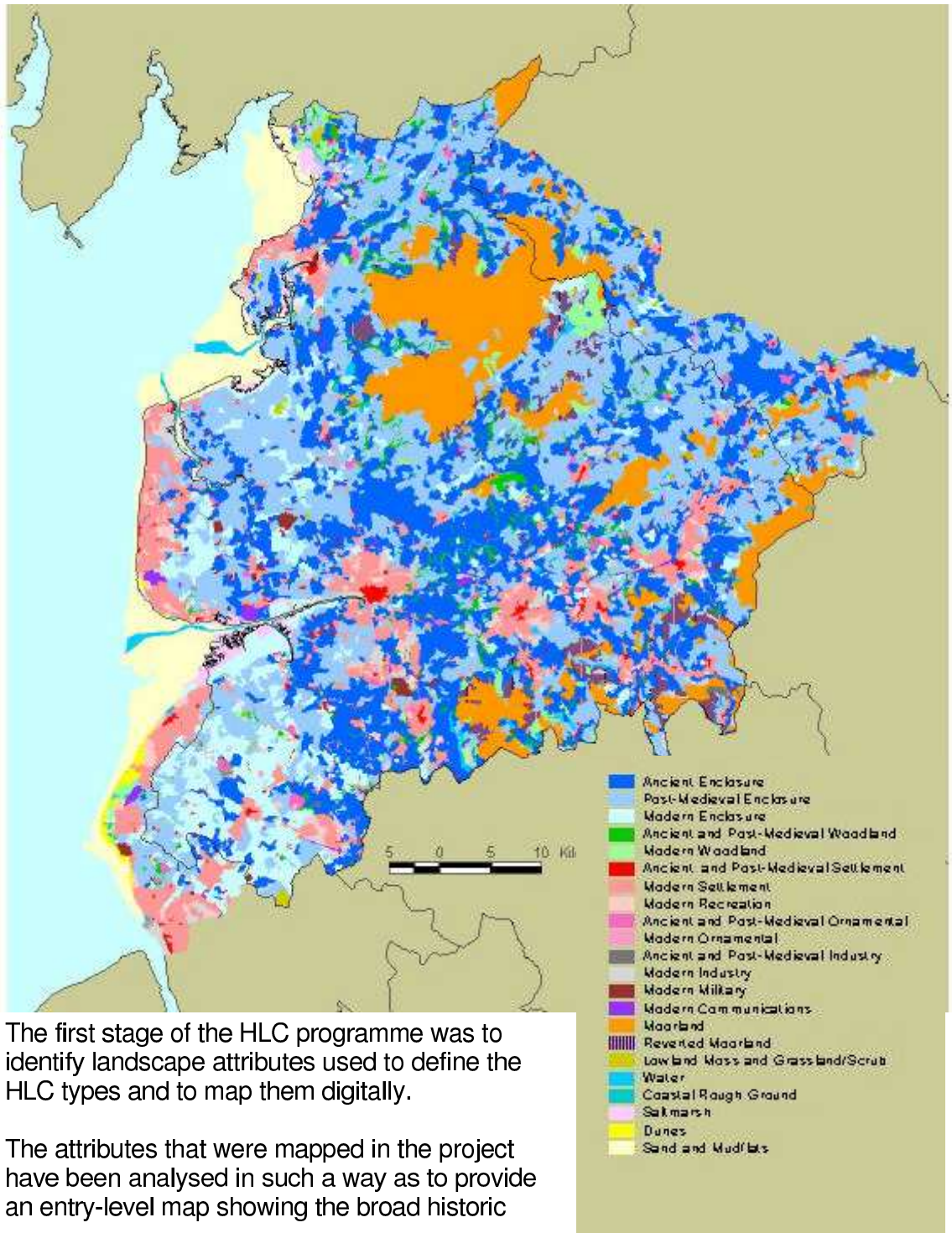# PART III:
LANCASHIRE'S HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

PART III: LANCASHIRE'S HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

4. INTRODUCTION

4.1 HLC TYPES IN LANCASHIRE

Legend:
- Ancient Enclosure
- Post-Medieval Enclosure
- Modern Enclosure
- Ancient and Post-Medieval Woodland
- Modern Woodland
- Ancient and Post-Medieval Settlement
- Modern Settlement
- Modern Recreation
- Ancient and Post-Medieval Ornamental
- Modern Ornamental
- Ancient and Post-Medieval Industry
- Modern Industry
- Modern Military
- Modern Communications
- Moorland
- Reverted Moorland
- Lowland Moss and Grassland/Scrub
- Water
- Coastal Rough Ground
- Saltmarsh
- Dunes
- Sand and Mudflats

The first stage of the HLC programme was to identify landscape attributes used to define the HLC types and to map them digitally.

The attributes that were mapped in the project have been analysed in such a way as to provide an entry-level map showing the broad historic

landscape character of Lancashire. These **HLC** *types* are an amalgamation of unchanged attribute designations based upon current and historic landuse, such as Settlement, Enclosure or Industry and an interpretation of date, such as Ancient, Post-Medieval or Modern.

The date categories have been divided into up to three broad spans. For enclosures, **Ancient Enclosure** includes all those areas enclosed prior to AD1600 (i.e. given a value of 1 or 2 within the characterisation database). **Post-Medieval Enclosure** includes either land newly enclosed or anciently enclosed land that had been substantially reorganised between AD1600-1850 (i.e. date values of 3, 6 or 7 within the database). **Modern Enclosure** includes either land newly enclosed or the substantial reorganisation of earlier enclosed land since 1850 (i.e. with date value of 4 within the database). In each case the date refers to the *broad* historic character of an area, and hence there will be pockets of more recent enclosure within the ancient and *vice versa*. Similarly the date reflects the surviving character of the present day landscape – the project's primary aim is not to produce a map of medieval or 17th century Lancashire (although much may be inferred through the database), but instead to produce a map of Lancashire showing where the medieval or 17th century landscape survives today. It is a map of Lancashire showing the time depth resonant within the modern landscape and, as such, has considerable appeal for the application of policy and landscape management techniques, compared with studies that reconstruct past landscapes which no longer survive.

Ancient & Post-Medieval Woodland includes all woodland which predates the 1st edition six-inch O.S. mapping (i.e. given a value of 1, 2, 3, 6 or, more usually, 7 within the characterisation database), whilst **Modern Woodland** includes woodland which exists today but was not on the 1st edition maps (i.e. given a value of 4 within the database). **Settlement, Industry** and **Ornamental** are similarly divided. **Military, Communications** and **Recreation** are modern types with no historical precedent for the purposes of the study.

4.2   FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE HLC DESCRIPTIONS

The information outlined under each HLC description comes in a number of forms: firstly, a description is included of the archaeological background and principal processes associated with each type. This is followed by a summary of the typical sites of archaeological interest, or components, to be found. A number of tables are included for each type that describe the relationship between the HLC area and the (predominantly) point information held in the Lancashire SMR (as of September 2000). The first table comprises a list of the most frequently occurring SMR site types (SMR *Type 1*, Lancashire County Council 1997) in the HLC type. Up to twenty-one entries are shown, including a figure for total sites in the SMR. The data is listed in five columns, which include:

- <u>TYPE1</u>. The site type categories in the SMR (e.g. 'Quarry', 'DMV' or 'Mill').
- <u>Tot. Type1 in county</u>. The total number of site types in the SMR in the county (e.g. there are 776 'Quarry' sites recorded in the SMR for Lancashire).
- <u>Tot. Type1 in HLC area</u>. The total number of site types in the specific HLC area (e.g. there are 179 'Quarry' sites recorded in the SMR in the **Ancient Enclosure** HLC type).
- <u>Ha./site in HLC area</u>. The area of each HLC type (in hectares) divided by the total number of any given site type to give an average area to site ratio for the type (e.g. there are 179 'Quarry' sites in the **Ancient Enclosure** HLC type, which covers

79,476 ha. of Lancashire, giving an average of one quarry for every 444ha. in the type).

- <u>% of Type1 in HLC area</u>. The total percentage of a site type to found within the specific HLC type (e.g. 23% of all 'Quarry' sites in the Lancashire SMR are found within the **Ancient Enclosure** HLC type.). Percentages less than 1% are not listed.
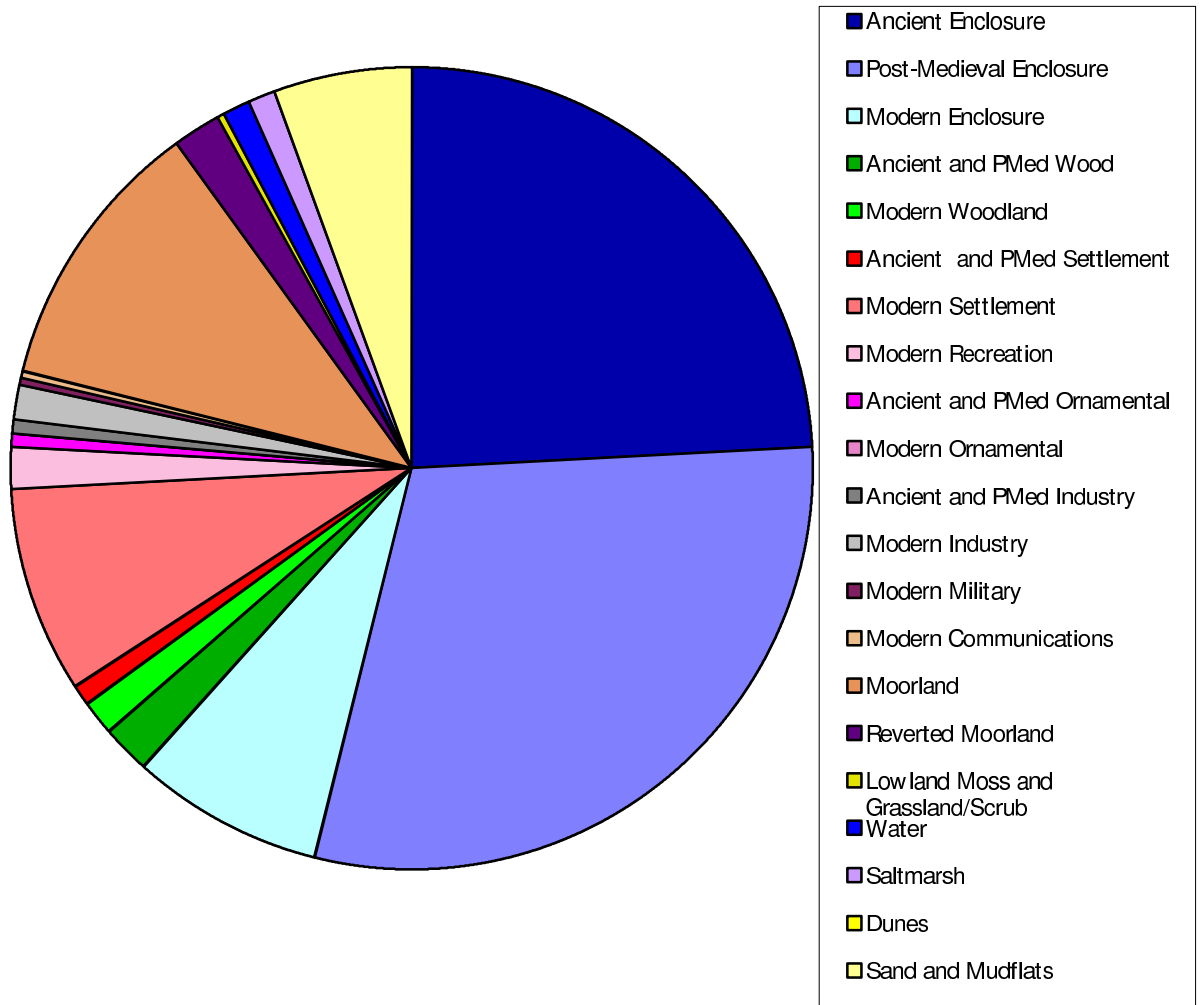
Where sufficient information is available a second table is included to show those sites that may not be listed in the twenty most frequently occurring SMR site types, but where the HLC type contains a significant percentage of the site type within the whole SMR. For example, there are 31 *Moats* in the SMR, 27 (87%) of which fall within the **Ancient Enclosure** HLC Type. Up to twenty-one entries for such data is only included if the percentage of a particular site type falling within the HLC type is more than 10%. There will, of course, be some duplication – for example, there are 78 crosses shown occurring in the first table of the **Ancient Enclosure** HLC type, making them the fourth most frequently occurring site type in the HLC type. 32% of crosses in Lancashire fall within the **Ancient Enclosure** HLC type, a large enough percentage to rank equal sixteenth in the type's second table.

Two further bar graphs are included, one outlining the proportion of SMR sites by *Form* located within the HLC type, the other outlining the proportion of SMR sites by *Period* within the HLC Type.

Finally, each HLC Type is described in terms of its similarity with other HLC Types, with particular reference to distinguishing criteria, and an indication is made of the type's overall rarity across the whole of Lancashire.

It should be noted that *only* Type1 SMR data was used – Type2 data (and additional type information held within the SMR) was not included due to constraints of time, complexity and the desire to provide a rapid snapshot, rather than a detailed analysis. As a result the figures given are likely to be skewed towards the more obvious and securely identified site types, or the earlier site. For example, 'Moated Site' might appear as Type1, with 'Manor House' as Type2, the existing building more likely to be later in date. Occasionally, however, 'Moated Site' might be recorded under Type2, and would not be included within the snapshot provided within the text.

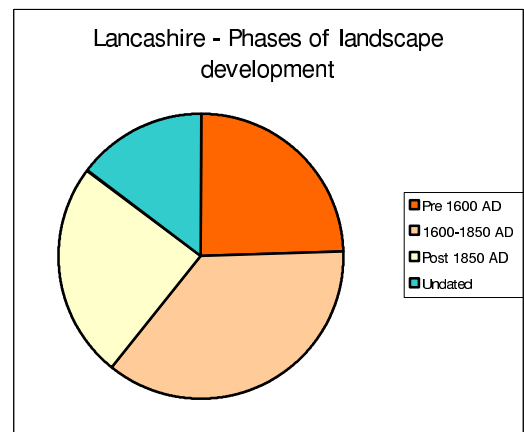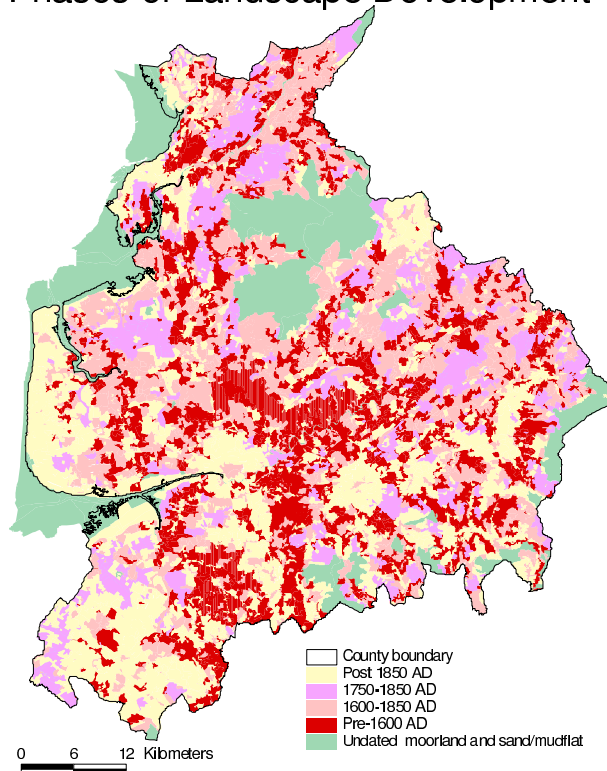# 5.   AN OVERVIEW OF HLC RESULTS FOR LANCASHIRE: BROAD CHARACTER TYPES

Legend:
- ■ Ancient Enclosure
- ■ Post-Medieval Enclosure
- □ Modern Enclosure
- ■ Ancient and PMed Wood
- ■ Modern Woodland
- ■ Ancient and PMed Settlement
- ■ Modern Settlement
- □ Modern Recreation
- ■ Ancient and PMed Ornamental
- □ Modern Ornamental
- ■ Ancient and PMed Industry
- □ Modern Industry
- ■ Modern Military
- □ Modern Communications
- ■ Moorland
- ■ Reverted Moorland
- □ Lowland Moss and
    Grassland/Scrub
- ■ Water
- □ Saltmarsh
- □ Dunes
- □ Sand and Mudflats

5.1   BROAD HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

Enclosed Land accounts for well over half the land area of Lancashire (62% or 201,905 hectares; see figure above). **Moorland** (11%), **Modern Settlement** (8%) and **Sand and Mudflats** (5%) make up the other main land cover types within the county, which together with **Enclosed Land** account for 86%. **Woodland** covers just over 3% or approximately 11,000 hectares, **Water** (mainly reservoirs) and **Saltmarsh** both just under 4,000 hectares and **Ornamental** and **Ancient settlement** 2,000 hectares. Built-up areas, including **Settlement**, **Industry**, **Recreation** and **Communications** account for over 12% of the land area and tend to be broadly concentrated along the coast and river valleys and in East Lancashire.

Examination of the historical background to these broad subdivisions adds depth to the understanding of Lancashire's landscape and its evolution through time. For instance 40% of today's enclosed land still comprises elements that have remained unchanged for hundreds of years, indicating a medieval or earlier origin (**Ancient Enclosure**). Here, field boundaries (hedges or walls), routeways and the field pattern are still visible and continue in use. Conversely approximately half the enclosed land shows elements from more recent times indicating enclosure perhaps two to three hundred years ago (**Post-Medieval Enclosure**). A smaller amount of land has been enclosed from a previously unenclosed landscape (**Moorland** or **Mossland** for instance), or has been radically changed within the last one hundred and fifty years (**Modern Enclosure**). The distribution of these HLC types within Lancashire may well serve to explain other features of the county such as the distribution and origins of elements of the built heritage, or the distribution of sites important for wildlife. Such information may also be used in conjunction with landuse data as a predictive tool – where certain types of archaeological site, historic building or wildlife interest may be predicted for instance.

5.2   PHASES OF LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

Lancashire
Phases of Landscape Development

County boundary
Post 1850 AD
1750-1850 AD
1600-1850 AD
Pre-1600 AD
Undated moorland and sand/mudflat

0   6   12 Kilometers

Lancashire - Phases of landscape development

- Pre 1600 AD
- 1600-1850 AD
- Post 1850 AD
- Undated

Through the dating field within the dataset it is possible to produce a generalised picture of the main periods of development of the Lancashire landscape which survive today regardless of specific landuse. Here much of the countryside is 'Ancient' in character, that is it predates AD1600. Such countryside is well distributed across Lancashire, often surviving in small areas, with a concentration in the middle of the county and running south from this. Ancient landscape is to be found in a quarter of Lancashire. It tend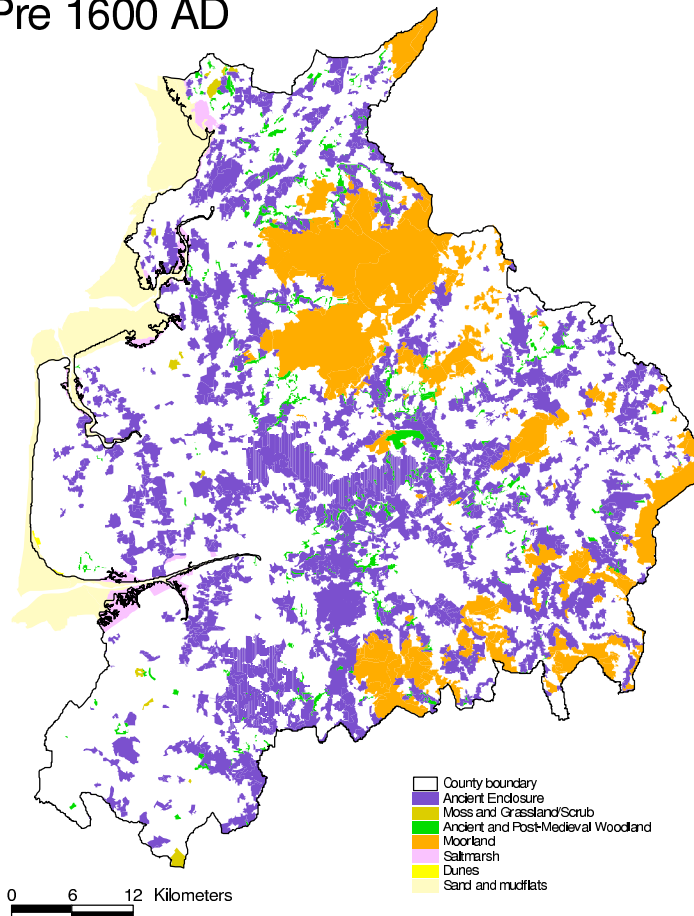s to consist of small fields with wavy boundaries (hedges or walls) set in an irregular pattern. Patches of woodland, winding roads and trackways are complemented by isolated farmhouses, hamlets or villages. Occasionally, small nucleated settlements exist, particularly in the river valleys and in strategic positions, later to develop into modern towns.

One third of Lancashire today preserves the historic landscape character of the post-medieval period. Such areas tend to occur north of the Ribble in large swathes of land and are concentrated around the modern moorland fringe and within areas of former mossland. Fields here tend to be larger, up to 16 hectares, with straighter boundaries of walls, hedges or fences. Settlement is again dispersed with some hamlets and villages. Routeways tend to be straighter and possibly wider. Although industry was important within Lancashire, particularly in the 18th-19th centuries, its impact has not been fully represented through the mapping. This is largely because much of the industry was site specific and of a scale too small to be picked up within the resolution of the project.

Modern landscape is mainly represented by urban areas particularly in the **Settlement**, **Recreation** and **Communication** HLC types. In addition there are areas of enclosure, particularly in southwest Lancashire, which have been altered considerably with much boundary loss, and on occasion even undergoing a complete reorganisation.

In order to see more clearly the presence of the different phases of landscape within Lancashire the following two maps show the presence of 1) AD1600 and earlier HLC types, and 2) post-medieval and earlier HLC types. The gaps in the latter map represent those areas that have either substantially changed or have developed since 1850 into the landscape of today.
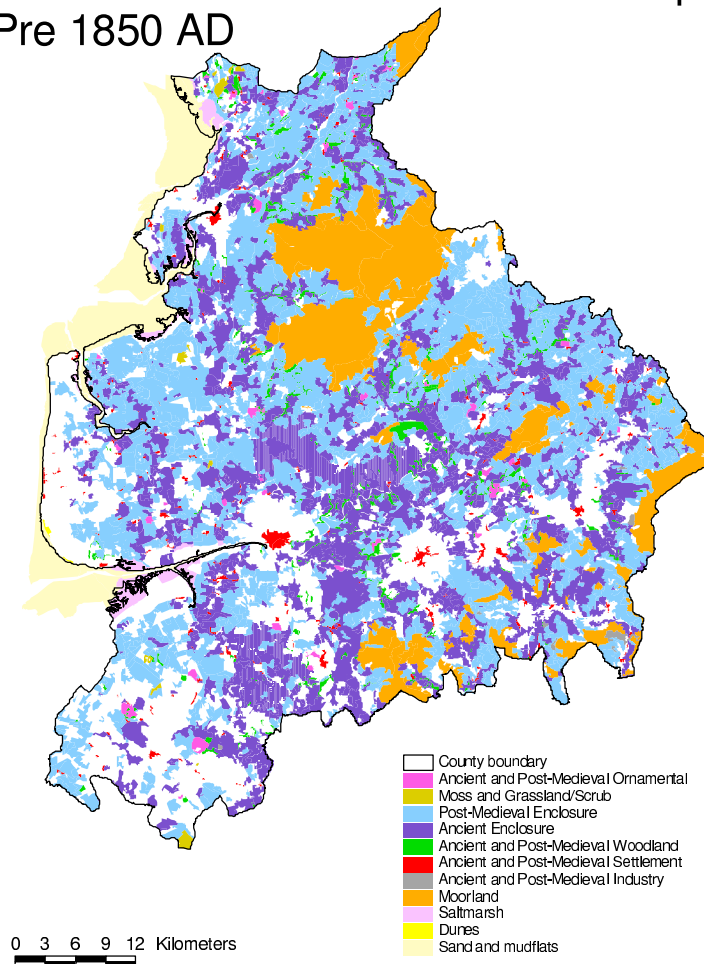

Lancashire
Ancient Landscape
Pre 1600 AD

Legend:
- County boundary
- Ancient Enclosure
- Moss and Grassland/Scrub
- Ancient and Post-Medieval Woodland
- Moorland
- Saltmarsh
- Dunes
- Sand and mudflats

0   6   12   Kilometers

Ancient and Post-Medieval Woodland has been included on this map. Much of this woodland is ancient but some post-dates AD1600, particularly the large plantations at Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley.

The pre-AD1850 map below shows that most of the elements of today's landscape existed by 1850, although there may have been small changes such as limited loss of boundaries since then. Some of the landscape showing a post-medieval pattern is likely to have been enclosed earlier, in the medieval or earlier periods, but was refashioned in this later period, probably in the spirit of improvement. However, some of this post-medieval landscape will represent areas that became enclosed for the first time in this period (especially enclosed land on former upland moor and lowland moss).

Lancashire
Ancient and Post-Medieval Landscape
Pre 1850 AD

County boundary
Ancient and Post-Medieval Ornamental
Moss and Grassland/Scrub
Post-Medieval Enclosure
Ancient Enclosure
Ancient and Post-Medieval Woodland
Ancient and Post-Medieval Settlement
Ancient and Post-Medieval Industry
Moorland
Saltmarsh
Dunes
Sand and mudflats

0   3   6   9   12   Kilometers

5.3   AN ASSESSMENT OF HLC TYPES AND SMR INFORMATION

5.3.1   SMR Sites within HLC types by Period

The two tables below illustrate both the percentage and number of SMR sites within each HLC type by SMR site Period (*Period 1*; Lancashire SMR). Discounting the Early Medieval period which is statistically invalid due to the low numbers of sites, there are a number of general themes, of which the most striking is the dominance of the SMR by sites dating to the Post-Medieval period. Other themes include sites that appear in large numbers in certain HLC types, such as prehistoric sites in **Moorland**, **Industry** and **Water** types, or Roman and Post Medieval sites in **Settlement.** Alternatively sites are noticeable in their

Percentage breakdown of SMR sites by period with HLC Types
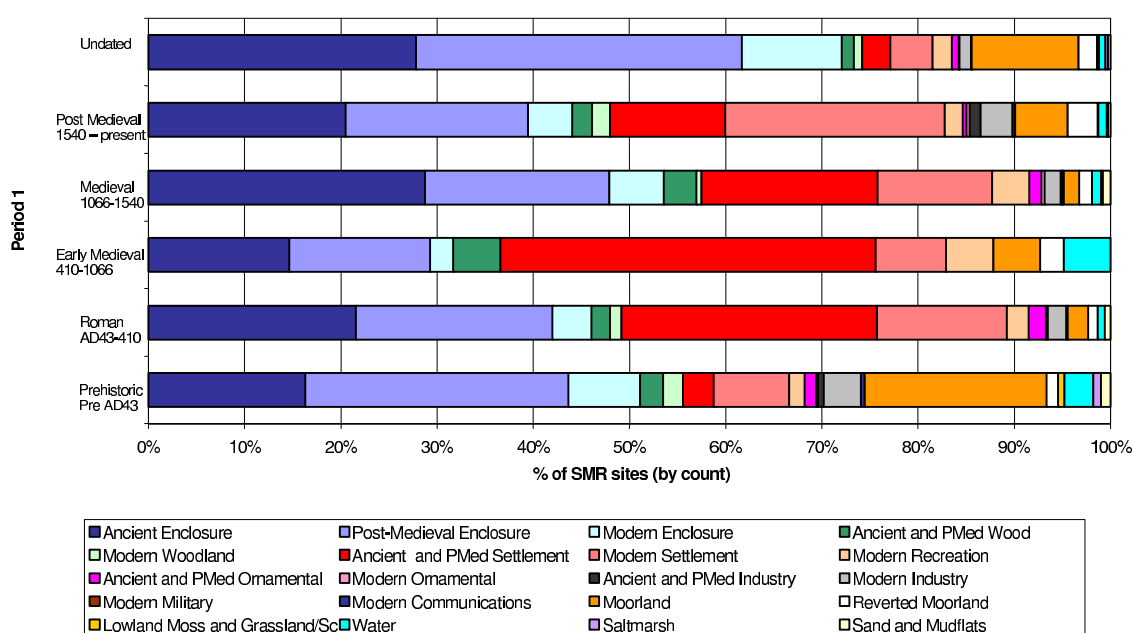
Total of SMR sites by period with HLC Types
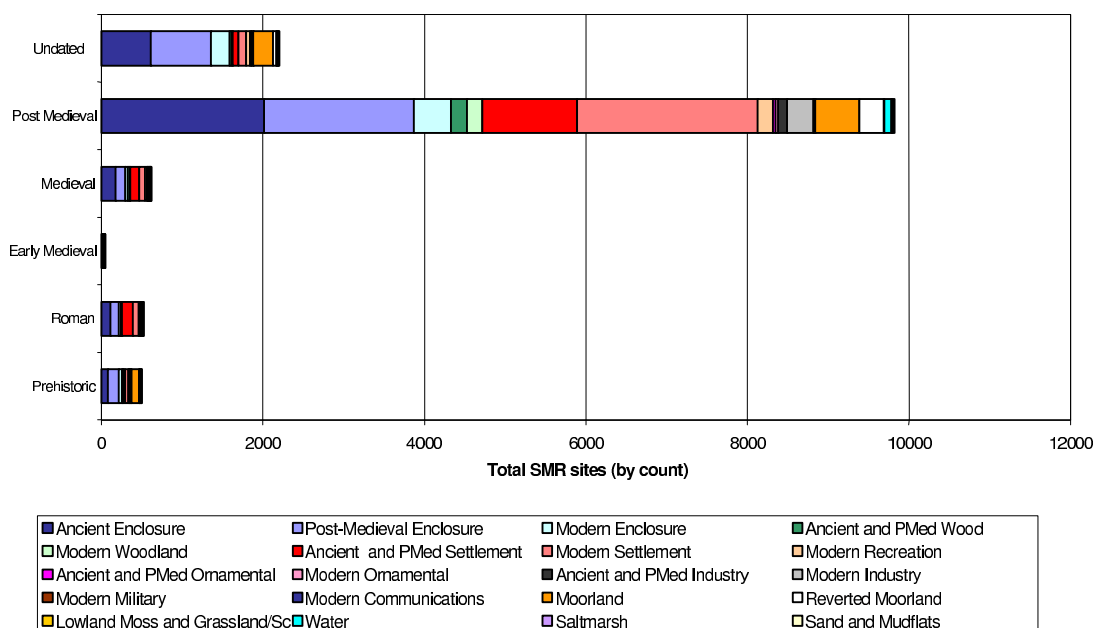
absence, for example Post-Medieval sites in **Ancient and Post Medieval Ornamental**, or comparatively low numbers of medieval sites in **Moorland** (as opposed to **Reverted Moorland**).

**HLC Types showing percentage proportion of SMR sites by period (Period1)**
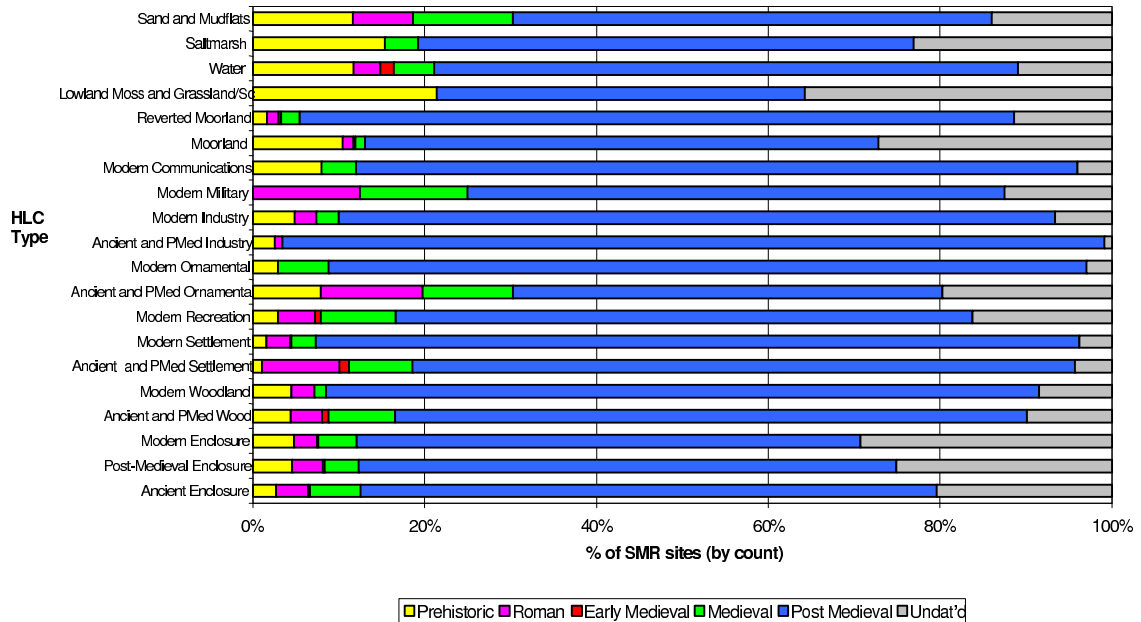
HLC Types showing total of SMR sites by period (Period 1)
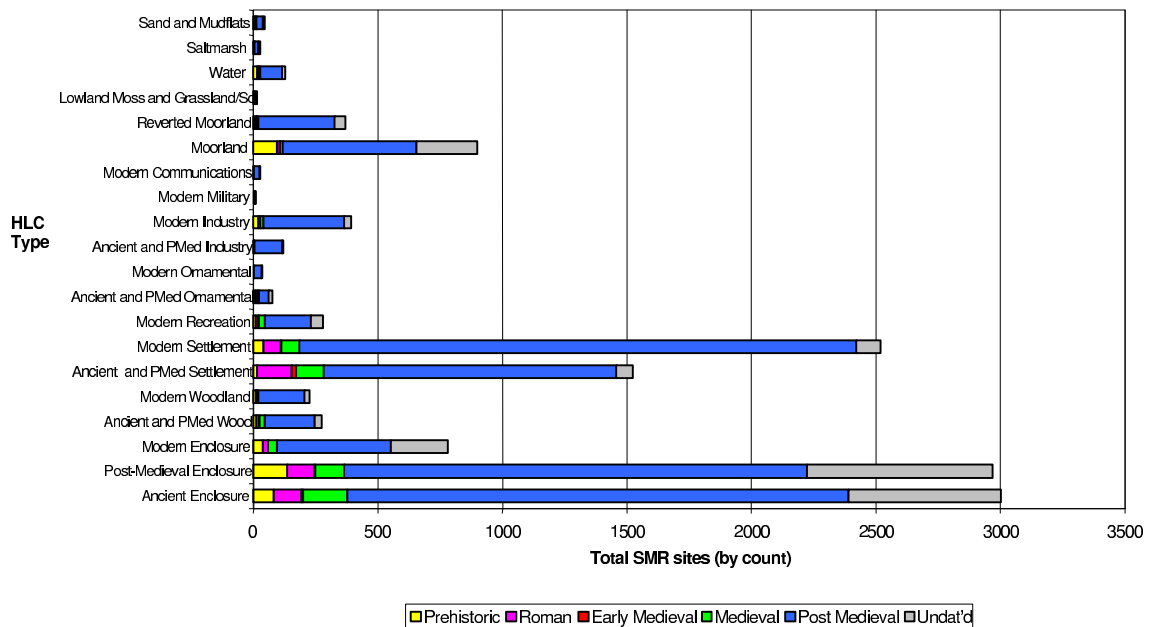
## 5.3.2   SMR Sites within HLC types by Form

Enclosure, **Settlement** and **Moorland** (including **Reverted Moorland**) HLC types are dominant in terms of numbers of SMR sites, with the most frequently occurring site form being *Documentary*, followed by *AP Site, Earthwork, Finds, Other Structure* and *Roofed Building*. Themes include the high number of *Ruined Buildings* in **Industrial** and **Moorland** HLC types, of *Roofed Buildings* in **Ornamental** and **Settlement** types, and of *AP Sites* in the **Enclosure** types.

Proportion of SMR sites by form within HLC Types

Total of SMR sites by form within HLC Types
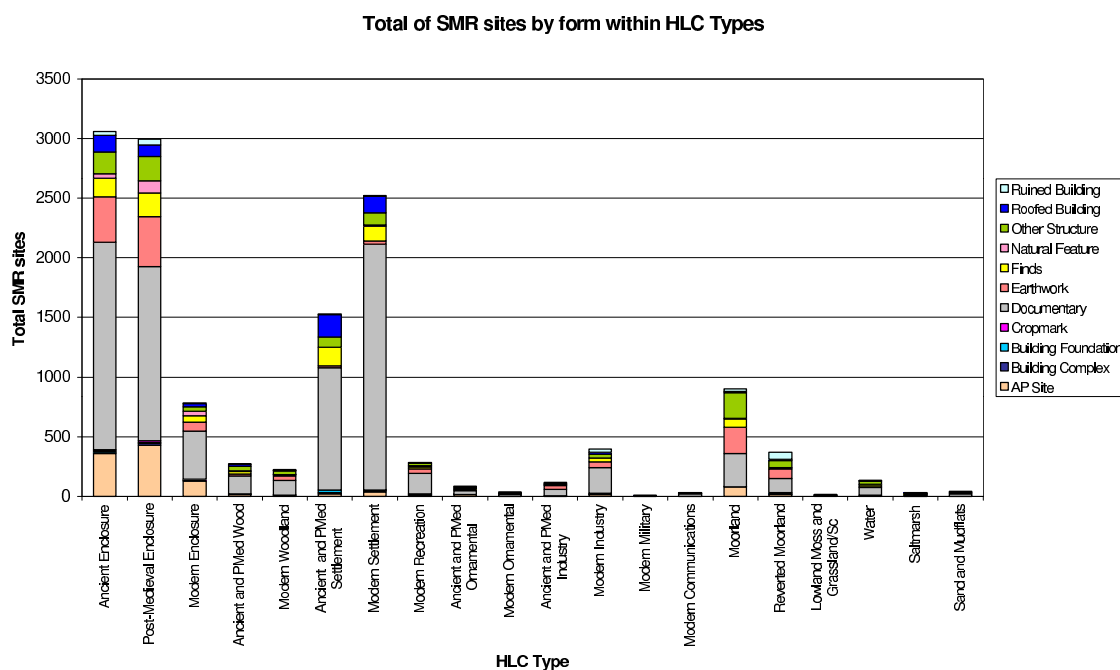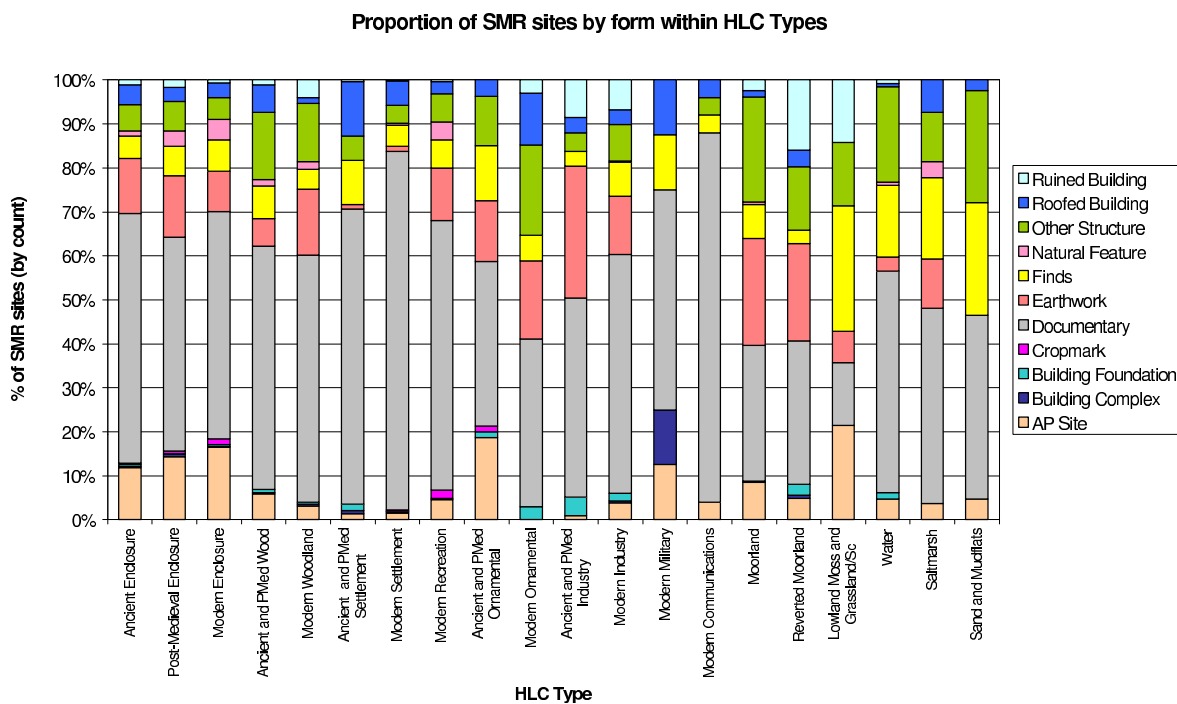
5.3.3   HLC Types and Scheduled Monuments

In numerical terms the most Scheduled Monuments (SMs) are to be found in **Ancient** and **Post-Medieval Enclosure** types and in **Ancient & Post-Medieval Settlement**, with the greatest number recorded in the latter.

Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in HLC types
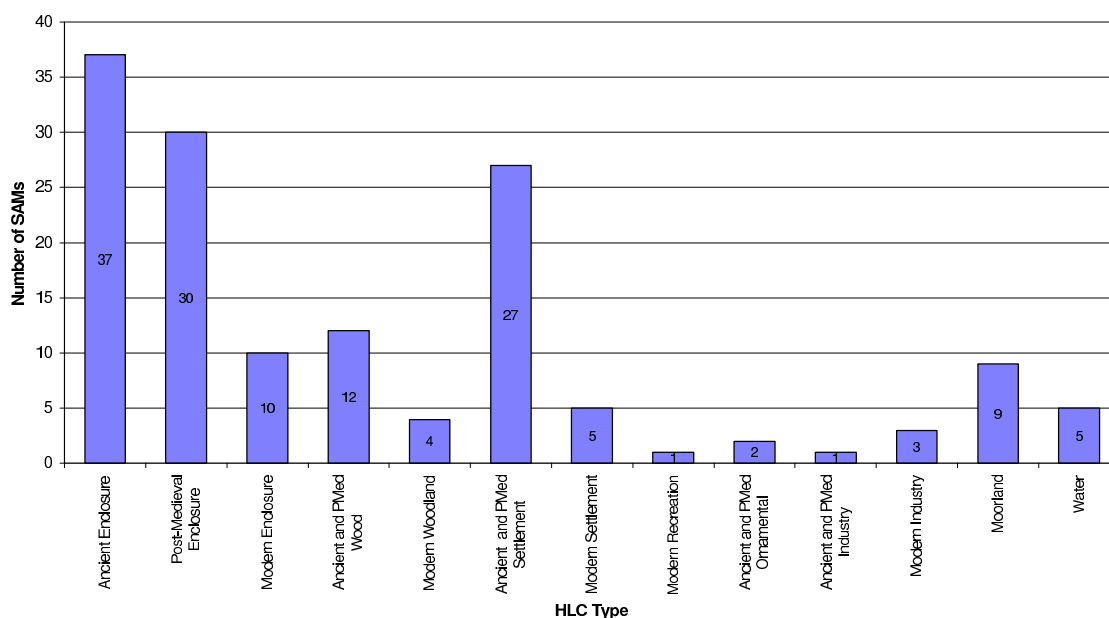
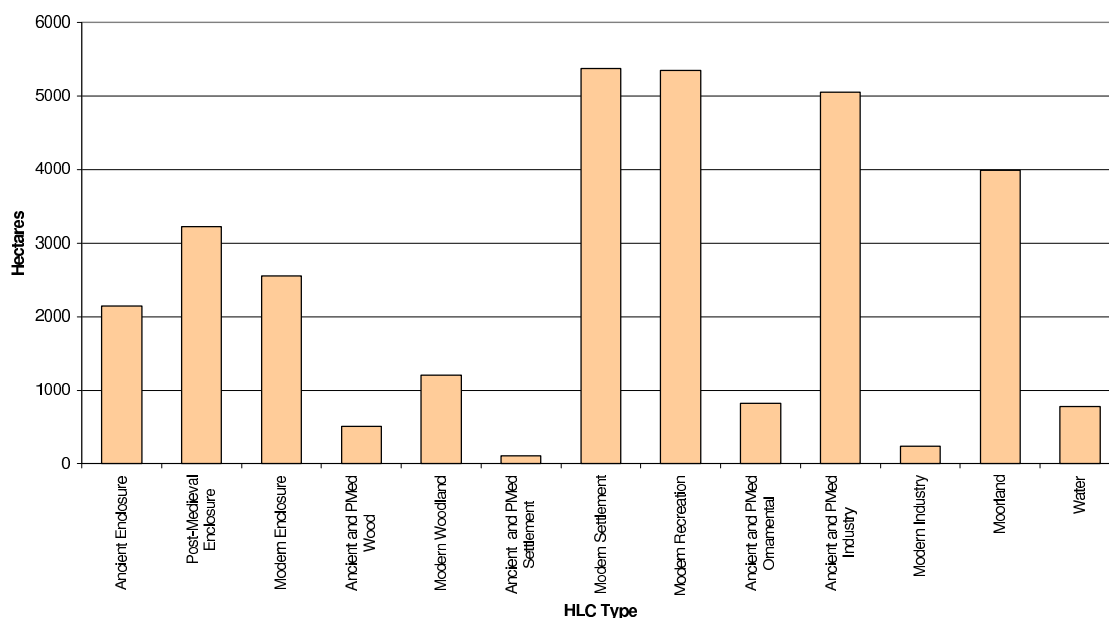Average hectares per Scheduled Ancient Monument in HLC types

Table above effectively illustrates density of scheduled monuments, with **Ancient & Post Medieval Settlement** having the greatest number of monuments per hectare.

5.3.4   HLC Types and Registered Parks and Gardens

Registered Parks & Gardens of Historic Interest (RPGs) are mainly found in the **Modern Recreation** (c.3,500 hectares), **Ancient & Post-Medieval Ornamental** (c.3,000 hectares) and **Ancient & Post-Medieval Woodland** (*c*.2,500 hectares) types. Similar proportions of these types are to be found within the individual RPGs, for example Scarisbrick includes **Ancient & Post-Medieval Ornamental** and **Ancient & Post-Medieval Woodland**, whilst Lytham Hall additionally includes areas of **Modern Recreation** and **Post-Medieval Enclosure**. Because characterisation was carried out without initial reference to the English Heritage Register of Parks & Gardens the variety of HLC types to be found within Lancashire's RPGs reflects their current landuse, rather than historic landuse.

**Hectares of Registered Park & Garden in HLC Types**
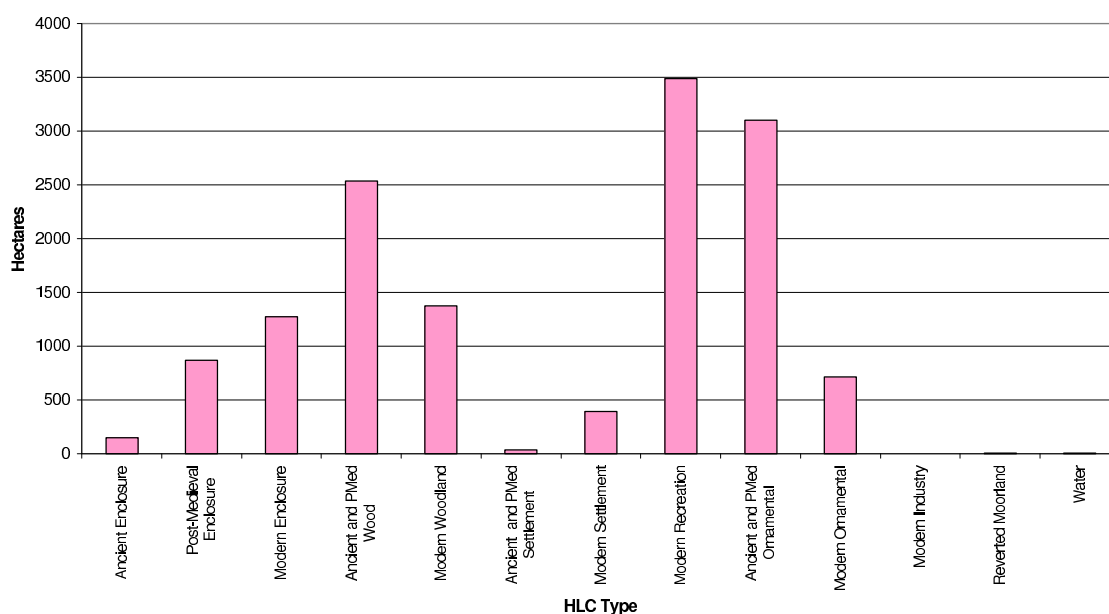
Registered Parks & Gardens showing HLC Type composition
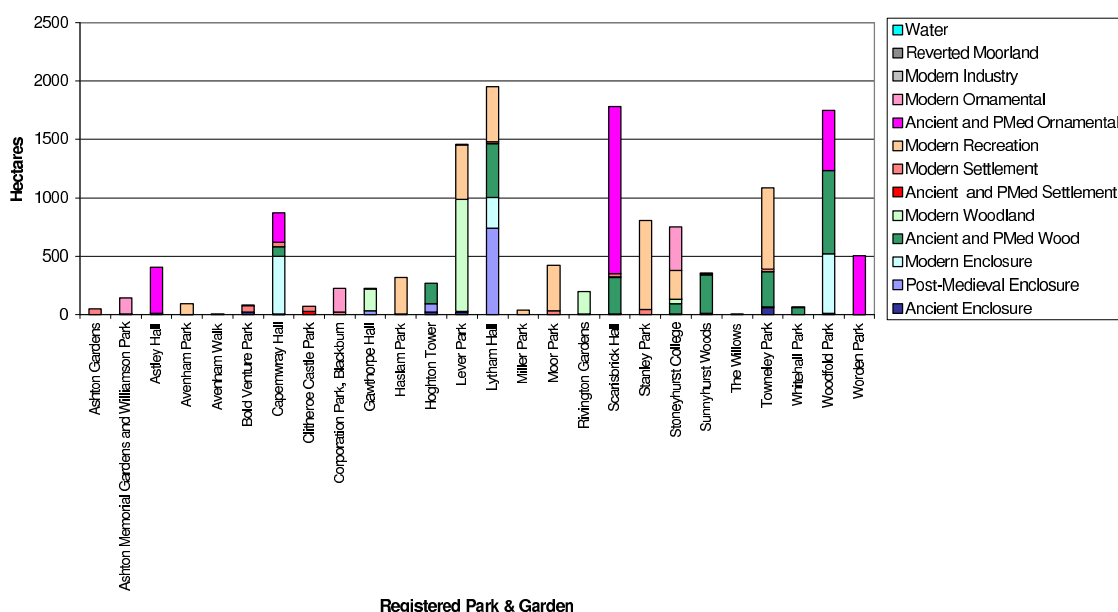
5.3.5 HLC Types and Listed Buildings

Unsurprisingly the majority of listed buildings fall within the **Ancient & Post-Medieval Settlement** HLC type (almost 1,800), followed by **Ancient Enclosure**, **Modern Settlement** and **Post-Medieval Enclosure**. The former reflects listed buildings within towns and villages whilst occurrence in the latter three types tends to reflect individual structures that either remain or were once in the countryside.

Listed Buildings in HLC Types
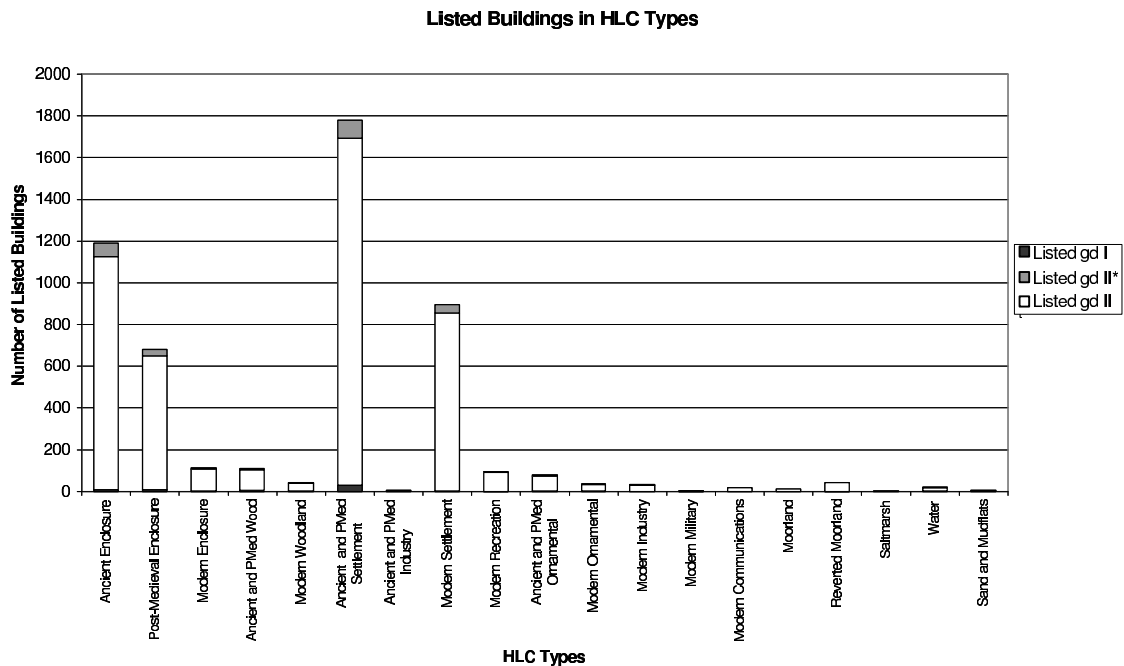
Listed Buildings in Lancashire:

Grade I   1.30%
Grade II*   4.70%
Grade II*   94.00%

6.   COASTAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPES

Sand and Mudflats, **Dunes** and **Saltmarsh** are all included in this section. Today these are all-important for their conservation interest and aesthetic appeal, and are often used for leisure and recreation. In the past, however, they were important within the local economy. Saltmarsh was highly valued for grazing, dunes for rabbit warrens and sand and mudflats were a source of shellfish and place of salt production as well as providing the main routeway to Furness and beyond across Morecambe Bay.

These types are highly susceptible to natural forces, which both erode them and provide conditions suitable for their accretion. In this respect they are perhaps the most 'natural' of landscapes in the county.