

Brief Instructions for using the Birmingham's Historic Landscape Characterisation project's maps and datasets

Main HLC webpage - <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/hlc>

The main page provides clickable links to all the mapping pages and datasets as well as the official reports and presentations. The instructions below are embedded with examples to illustrate how the system works.

General Instructions applicable to all maps

By default all the mapping pages have a modern map of Birmingham and its environs as a background. It is recommended that you keep this, although you can turn it off by de-selecting Background Mapping in the Legend window. Use the Legend window to select which maps and features you wish to display by clicking on the box next to the item. If the item has a + sign after it, this means that it can be expanded and you can achieve greater finesse in your selection criteria by selecting just the sub-items you want beneath it rather than the whole item. However be warned that the + signs are generally not visible unless you scroll to the right within the Legend window!

For all maps, in order to home in on the part of the city you are interested in, position the cursor and 'drag' the map across the screen to centre it where you wish, then use the magnification slider and +/- buttons located in the top left hand corner of the screen to zoom in/ zoom out to produce the required scale.

How to use the Historic maps of the Birmingham area -

1. Go to https://localview.birmingham.gov.uk/Planning/Sites/HLC_Maps/
2. Select one (and only one) map you would like to view from the maps grouped together in the Legend window. In order to do this you will need to expand each group of maps (by clicking on the + sign) so that you can see the individual maps in the group and then select the map you want. (Warning - if you select more than one map or a whole group of maps, the maps are overlaid on top of each other and become unreadable).

Example - Centre the map on Moseley and zoom in/out as necessary. In the Legend window, expand the group of 1800s Maps of Outer Birmingham, then beneath it select Kings Norton parish, Moseley Yield 1840 Tithe Map. The map will appear, overlaid on to the background.

3. If you want to relate the historic map to the modern day pattern of roads and buildings select Map Overlays and Contours in the Legend window. This overlays the historic map with modern roads, buildings and boundaries. If you want just one or two of these, expand Map Overlays and Contours by clicking on the + sign and select just the overlays you want.

Example - Expand Map Overlays and Contours and beneath it select Current Birmingham Roads

4. You can also overlay the map with Historic Environment Records (HERs), Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs) and Historic Landscape Character Records (HLCRs) by selecting the appropriate boxes in the Legend window. If you select (click on) the **Identify** button on the top menu bar, you can then click on a particular HER, HLCA or HLCR on the map and a pop-up box will appear displaying summary information and a reference id. Clicking on the underlined data items will reveal further information. You can also use the reference id to look up the record in the full HLCR or HLCA dataset. Links to all these datasets are provided on the www.birmingham.gov.uk/hlc page. If you click on an HER (identifiable by a red circle or box with red cross hatching) the pop-up box will give you a brief description of the historic environment - possibly a building, landscape feature or historic remains. (To turn off the Identify feature, select (click on) the **Default** button on the top menu bar.)

Example - Select Historic Environment Records (HERs) and Historic Landscape Character Records (HLCRs). Click on the Identify button on the menu bar. Then click on the red shaded circle HER on Moseley Hall and the pop-up box will identify this as the site of Moseley Hall Hospital and give you an HLCR id (HBM2161). If you click on 'Moseley Hall Hospital' and 'HBM2161' further historical information will appear showing previous uses of the site with dates. If you want to see the full HLC dataset record, open the HLCR dataset pdf by using the link on

the www.birmingham.gov.uk/hlc page. Then either by scrolling down or by using the Find facility (Control F) open the page for HBM2161. This shows the full contents of the dataset record, including in this case a list of Associated monuments: Moseley Hall Hospital, the Dovecote and Cowhouse.

How to use the maps showing the evolution of Birmingham's landscape, using Historic Landscape Character (HLCR) records -

1. Go to https://localview.birmingham.gov.uk/Planning/Sites/HLC_Records/

2. The Legend window contains a list of years for which Land Use records are available. If you expand one of the years (by clicking on the + sign), you will see a list of land use types and the colour codes used to identify them. If you select one or more of those land use types, only the land use types selected will be displayed on the background map. Alternatively if you select the year as a whole all the land use types will be displayed. In that case it will be difficult to understand exactly where you are on the map and it is recommended that you select Map Overlays and Contours in the Legend window to overlay the land use map with the modern pattern of roads, buildings and boundaries. (If you don't want all the overlays, expand Map Overlays and Contours by clicking on the + sign and select just the overlays you want).

Example - Centre the map on Moseley and zoom in/out as necessary. In the Legend window, expand the 1750 Land Use HLC records and select just three land use types - Residential, halls, cottages & vernacular houses; Farms, smallholdings and Open Commons. Only these land use types will be displayed. Next select the box beside the 1750 Land Use HLC records heading and all land use types will be displayed. The map produced demonstrates that in 1750 Moseley largely comprised fields and commons, with just a few halls, cottages and vernacular houses. To overlay the modern road pattern on the map, expand Map Overlays and Contours and beneath it select Current Birmingham Roads.

3. By selecting and de-selecting boxes you can easily add and remove different land use types and by selecting other years you can see how land use changed over time. You can also display the Enclosures at various dates by selecting the Enclosure mappings listed under Maps Overlays and Contours. Note that if you select land use types for different years simultaneously the land use types will be overlaid on each other and maybe difficult to decipher, so it is simpler to search one year at a time.

Example - In the Legend window, de-select the 1750 Land Use HLC records and select those for 1880, then de-select those for 1880 and select those for 1920 to see a graphic demonstration of how Moseley changed during the course of the latter half the 19th Century. Repeat the example but instead of displaying all land use types expand the years and select just a few land use types, such as the Residential types, Commercial, Railways and Enclosed fields. Also try expanding Maps Overlays and Contours and selecting Kings Norton 1772 and Yardley 1833 Enclosure records to see the extent of enclosures on those dates.

4. You can also overlay the map with Historic Environment Records (HERs), Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs) and Historic Landscape Character Records (HLCRs) by selecting the appropriate boxes in the Legend window. If you select (click on) the **Identify** button on the top menu bar and then click on a particular HER, HLCA or HLCR on the map, a pop-up box will appear with basic data about the record and a reference id. Clicking on the underlined words will display further information about the historic environment - possibly a building, landscape feature or historic remains. You can also use the reference id to look up the entire record in the relevant full dataset (accessible for the www.birmingham.gov.uk/hlc page). (To turn off the Identify feature, select (click on) the **Default** button on the top menu bar.)

Example - Select Historic Environment Records (HERs) and Historic Landscape Character Records (HLCRs). Click on the Identify button on the menu bar. Click on the HER (red cross-hatched circle) on the railway line near St Mary's Church and a pop-up box will appear with brief historical details of the environment (if you click on the underlined words) and the HLCR id (HBM2479). If you want to see the full HLCR dataset record, open the HLCR dataset pdf by using the link on the www.birmingham.gov.uk/hlc page. Then either by scrolling down or by using the Find facility (Control F) open the page for HBM2479. This shows the full contents of the dataset record.

How to use the maps showing the evolution of Birmingham's landscape using Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) data -

Go to https://localview.birmingham.gov.uk/Planning/Sites/HLC_Areas/ and follow the instructions described above for Historic Landscape Character Records (HLCR). An HLCA is a combination of HLCRs with broadly similar land use types. HLCAs therefore have additional land use types to cope with more mixed land usage.