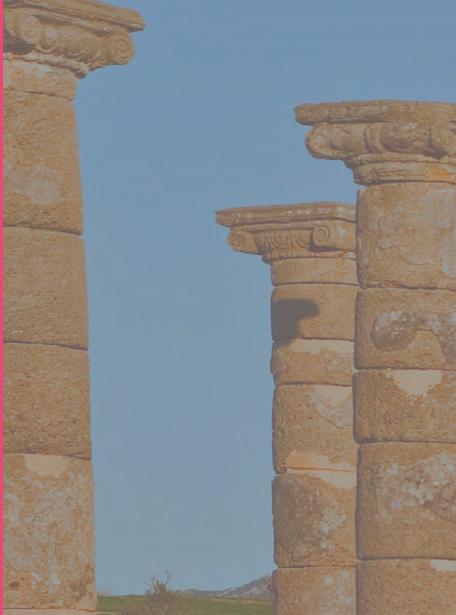


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How to Create a Cultural Landscape Guide



UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondos Estructurales y
de Inversión Europeos



Junta
de Andalucía

Consejería de Turismo,
Cultura y Deporte

Instituto Andaluz
del Patrimonio Histórico



Junta de Andalucía

**Consejería de Turismo,
Cultura y Deporte**

Instituto Andaluz del Patrimonio Histórico

REGIONAL DEPARTMENT FOR
CULTURE AND HISTORICAL
HERITAGE

Minister for Tourism, Culture
and Sport
Arturo Bernal Bergua

Deputy Minister for Tourism,
Culture and Sport
Víctor Manuel González García

General Secretary of Cultural
Heritage
Salomón Castiel Abecasis

Director of the Andalusian
Institute of Historical Heritage
(IAPH)
Juan José Primo Jurado

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Edited by:
Andalusian Institute of
Historical Heritage

TECHNICAL COORDINATION
Silvia Fernández Cacho, IAPH

AUTHORS
Silvia Fernández Cacho, IAPH
José María Rodrigo Cámara,
IAPH
Víctor Fernández Salinas,
University of Seville
Isabel Durán Salado, IAPH
José Manuel Díaz Iglesias,
IAPH
Jesús Cuevas García, IAPH
Pedro Salmerón Escobar,
architect
Isabel Santana Falcón, IAPH

IMAGES
IAPH image bank
(unless otherwise stated)

IAPH EDITORIAL TEAM
María Cuéllar Gordillo,
Cinta Delgado Soler,
Carmen Guerrero Quintero

DESIGN
Manolo García

LAYOUT
Teresa Barroso

TRANSLATION
Nicholas Isard

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How To Create a Cultural Landscape Guide

Scientific coordination:
Silvia Fernández Cacho

Introduction

From the very beginning, the Andalusian Institute of Historical Heritage (IAPH) has promoted cultural heritage as an integral and extremely important part of places and, as such, as something that has been shaped by both the past and present. Instead of being considered as a collection of isolated objects, cultural heritage is now seen within the context of its physical and social environment.

These principles, which are at the heart of its work, explain why since 2000, the year in which the European Landscape Convention was signed in Florence, the institute has organised a series of cultural landscape projects and initiatives of great methodological and technical importance, undertaken by the Cultural Landscape Laboratory, a permanent part of the IAPH.

Through the laboratory, the institute has sat on monitoring and technical committees as part of the Andalusian Landscape Strategy and the National Plan for Cultural Landscape; has been invited to various scientific and technical events by national and international organisations; has organised numerous training initiatives in the form of courses and individual mentoring schemes in Spain and abroad; and is responsible for multiple research and outreach publications.

It is as part of our efforts to further the transfer of knowledge, one of the cornerstones of our work at the IAPH, that we publish this guide, the purpose of which is to bring together in one place much of the expertise and experience in the field of cultural landscapes that we have accumulated over the past 20 years. We hope it comes in useful for those interested in and responsible for preserving the cultural and natural values of landscapes, as well as helps them ensure that changes affecting them are managed following an approach based on sustainability and participatory governance.

Juan José Primo Jurado
Director of the IAPH

Prologues

How to Create a Cultural Landscape Guide, published by the Regional Department for Culture and Historical Heritage in Andalusia and created by the Andalusian Institute of Historical Heritage, represents a major step forward in terms of developing an effective approach to cultural landscapes.

We would like to congratulate the Director of the institute, Juan José Primo Jurado, the technical coordinator of the publication, Silvia Fernández Cacho, and the authors: José María Rodrigo Cámara, Víctor Fernández Salinas, Isabel Durán Salado, José Manuel Díaz Iglesias, Jesús Cuevas García, Pedro Salmerón Escobar and Isabel Santana Falcón.

The exceptional experience of the institute acquired over the years across a territory of great beauty and incomparable richness has led it to undertake in-depth work as well as develop tools in the area of cultural landscape management.

The geographical and temporal scope involved as well as the range of themes covered in How to Create a Cultural Landscape Guide are thus of great use to public authorities and other actors looking to protect, manage and enhance their landscape.

More than a source of inspiration, they are an invitation to action.

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons
Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention

Upon ratifying the Council of Europe Landscape Convention at the dawn of the new millennium, Spain undertook to establish a series of strategies that would link public authorities, institutions and civil society, in other words the entire country, to landscape in the broadest sense of the word.

In order to implement the Convention, a number of lines of work were laid out, including the creation of the National Cultural Landscape Plan. This instrument was drafted by the most distinguished experts in landscape from all over Spain, and Andalusia played a key role in the process.

According to the National Cultural Landscape Plan, the study of landscape 'may be an end in itself, as a source of knowledge in addition to a valuable tool for public authorities and bodies responsible for a territory, as it provides the knowledge that needs to be taken into account when planning any action that affects the territory, be it related to the environment, town planning, public works, etc.'

This publication brings together the knowledge and experience of experts who have worked tirelessly since the signature of the European Landscape Convention, drawing on their extensive and very innovative research into Spain's complex and extremely varied landscapes. As such, it is undoubtedly a useful tool for professionals and anyone else involved in creating a landscape guide.

Carmen Caro
Coordinator, National Cultural Heritage Plans,
Spanish Cultural Heritage Institute

Contents

P. 9

Chapter 1.

Please read before using

Deconstructing concepts.

Aims and appropriateness.

How to use this guide.

P. 30

Chapter 2.

Laying the foundations: design and planning

Objectives, resources and scope of a landscape guide.

Organising the work involved.

General strategies.

P. 80

Chapter 3.

Where to take action: identifying and establishing the scope of study

The spatial manifestation of landscape.

Identifying the values of a landscape.

Defining the scope.

P. 110

Chapter 4.

Nature: biotic and abiotic factors

Nature and culture.

Geomorphology.

Water.

Climate.

Biogeography.

Heritage resources associated with the natural environment.

P. 132

Chapter 5.

Time: the historical construction of a place

Landscape and the historical construction of a place.

Heritage resources associated with the history of a territory.

P. 157

Chapter 6.

Uses: human activities

Cultural landscape as a social construction: dynamism and human-driven change.

Analysing human activities as part of landscape characterisation.

Identifying and selecting activities.

Describing human activities.

Heritage resources associated with human activities.

P. 172

Chapter 7.

Constructing images: perceptions of landscapes

Social perception of landscapes.

Approaches to visual perception in landscapes.

Heritage resources associated with perceptions of landscapes.

P. 221

Chapter 8.

Managing change: assessment, objectives and measures

Starting point: assessment.

What next? Objectives and measures.

P. 264

Chapter 9.

Managing a landscape guide over its lifespan

Monitoring: concept and tasks.

Evaluation framework.

An introduction to working with indicators.

A reactive guide based on adaptive management.

A landscape guide over time: commitment and governance.

Overview and experiences of participatory governance.

P. 306

Summary diagram.

P. 308

References and further reading.



05



Time:
the historical construction
of a place

Landscape and the historical construction of a place

Article 1 of the European Landscape Convention, which provides a definition for the term ‘landscape’, clearly recognises its diachronic, temporal and historical nature as being an inherent part of its character, where the latter is understood as being the result of action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. Based on this perspective, it is understood that such action and interaction takes place over a long period of time and is manifested through historical events and processes, which, when properly described and understood, make up the history of a landscape.

In line with the interpretation of the European Landscape Convention, the character of a landscape (a ‘result’) is constantly being shaped, with such action and interaction providing it with a permanent degree of change and modernity as well as a historical dimension. The latter is true provided the passing of time can indeed be observed and historical research methods and techniques may be used for the purpose of explaining the evolution of the landscape in question. This includes looking at aspects such as the individuals and forces that have shaped the territory, the mark these have left on it, what has remained the same through to the present day and what has changed (as well as how to bring these to light).

This approach to the historical facet of a landscape and history as the careful and analytical observation of change and transformation within societies and territories over time is particularly appropriate for use in a landscape guide. Based on the above, gaining an understanding of the territory in question

and its historical construction must form part of the objectives pursued by the team responsible for producing an overview of the history of the landscape in question. This should involve looking at issues such as the suitability of a theoretical framework, how sources should be handled and adapted to the scale used to study the landscape, how to identify and differentiate between the various processes that have contributed to shaping its character, and what tangible and intangible heritage resources related to historical processes identified may be observed.

History and historiography: a modern perspective

Since at least the 1980s, history has been undergoing a postmodern revision, the result of the big historiographical movements of the 20th century which had led to the discipline being considered a science based on a set of specific research methods and techniques being called into question. However, this revisionism has begun to threaten the scientific nature of history by doing away with the big explanatory paradigms in favour of microhistory. The result is a narrower perspective and a polarisation of the role of narration or language, something that has led to excessive narrative.

Leaving behind these extremes, any historical approach to landscape must be based on a critical historical awareness, one which does not focus excessively on small units of research but instead aims to educate and disseminate historical knowledge as well as build general explanatory models.

The ultimate aim here is to effectively join the dots in terms of past events and processes and the mark they have left on the landscape, as well as produce a clear and coherent overview of them based on a broad historical reading (regional, national or con-

Any historical approach to landscape must be based on a critical awareness, one which does not focus excessively on small units of research but instead aims to educate and disseminate historical knowledge as well as build general explanatory models.

tinental). This should be the primary objective of historians working on a landscape guide. Without limiting ourselves to any one of the approaches currently used in historiography, when looking at the history of a landscape, it is generally useful to adopt an open and critical stance that helps advance or even revise established paradigms.

The historical research method as applied to landscape

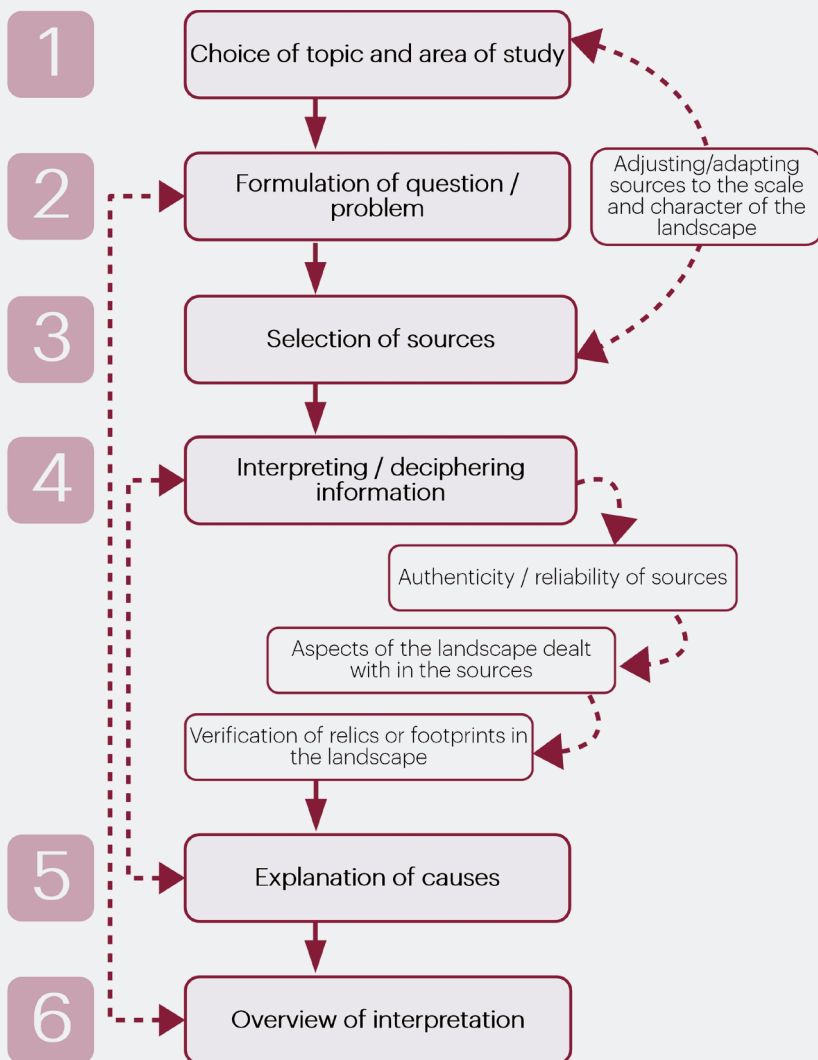
The tasks that commonly form part of the scientific method used in historical research are well established in the field. We will not describe and analyse them here, although we do encourage those interested in finding out more about them to go to the list of further readings. Nevertheless, establishing a model for studying the historical dimension of a landscape which includes the basic aspects of this method as part of a series of stages may be useful. This should cover the following tasks: choosing a topic and establishing its scope; formulating a research question/problem; working with historical sources (including their selection and critical analysis); correlating information provided by the source(s) with aspects of the landscape, and then

establishing and explaining causality; and lastly, formulating a historical interpretation or answering the question/problem put forward.

The approach taken to the first and second stages must be clear and simple, and the process as a whole must be able to be applied to virtually any landscape study within the context of this publication. Thus, the stages are as follows:

- During the first stage, the topic is chosen. This is the landscape as a complex object of study, with forces causing certain features to remain the same and others to change over time. Subsequently, a specific scope of study should be established. The scale should ideally be local for a landscape guide (see chapter three).
- During the second stage, the research question/problem should be formulated. This is what should guide all the historical research carried out into the landscape in question. As discussed above, this may take the form of a question, such as 'what is the sequence of past events and/or processes that have shaped the evolution of the landscape?', or a problem, such as establishing and describing past events and/or processes that have moulded the landscape.
- The third stage involves the selection of sources and is an essential part of historical research. There is an extensive body of literature available covering aspects such as their conceptual definition, handling and classification. As such, later on in this chapter a series of brief pointers will be given in order to add to what was discussed in chapter two. For now, it should be noted that the object of study, i.e. a cultural landscape, brings together many facets of human action and/or expression, and is 'multiscale' in nature. Taking into account

A research process for the historical study of landscapes



the above, when describing past processes, great care should be taken to properly adapt the sources used to each case.

- The fourth stage involves working with the sources selected and adapted to the topic and scale in question. A three-stage approach may be used here. Firstly, as always with the scientific method, the authenticity and reliability of the sources must be determined, this being essential in order to ensure the historical events are correctly interpreted. Secondly, the aspect(s) of the landscape each source provides information on must be established. Thirdly, it must be checked that the information provided by the sources consulted is supported by a mark or relic in the landscape.

- The fifth stage involves establishing causality and explaining it, this being one of the cornerstones of history as a science. Once the correlation between a series of information and aspects of the landscape has been established, the information provided by the sources should be included in an explanatory cause-and-effect model, which will bring coherency to the interpretation.

- During the sixth stage, an overview of the historical interpretation should be formulated. This should respond to the initial research question/problem. It may be accompanied by an analysis of the historical territorial structure of the area studied. This stage involves a number of extremely important aspects, an example being the criteria used for historical periodisation, something that will determine how the past events and/or processes selected are presented, as well as the level of detail used to describe and explain them when formulating the overview of the historical interpretation.

As can be seen, this stage-based model treats a landscape the same as any other object of historical

research. Something else worth noting is the fact that, in the majority of cases, the content produced during the sixth stage (i.e. a diachronic presentation of the territorial structure and an overview of the interpretation of the historical evolution and contemporary features/nature of the landscape) is the only visible output for readers in terms of the historical research carried out.

The third and fourth stages, which address the issue of working with historical sources, and the inherent complexity of tasks involved in the sixth stage, which are fundamental in terms of sequence and interpretation, warrant further discussion.

Sources: selection and analysis as part of historical research into a landscape

The individual or team responsible for undertaking historical research should provide a solid, well-documented overview or account of how the landscape in question has evolved over time. This should be based on the analysis of a wide selection of primary and secondary sources, which may have been produced at different times and reflect different ideologies (see chapter two).

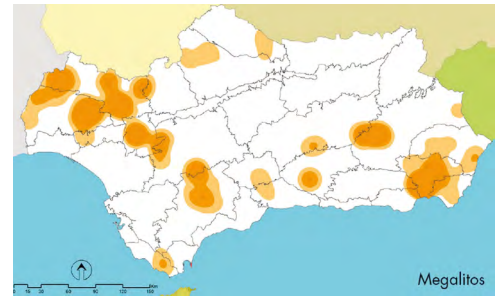
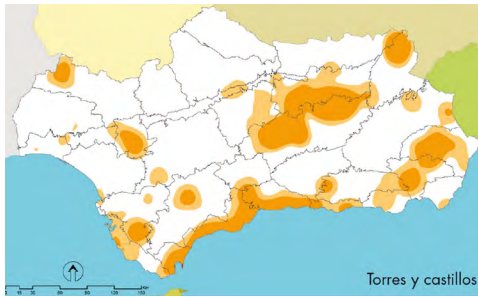
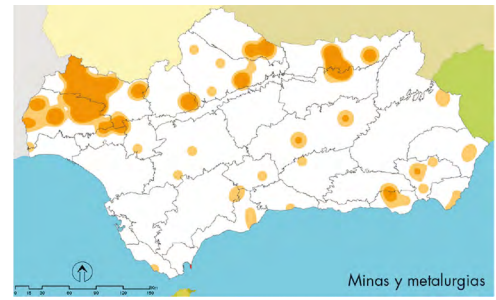
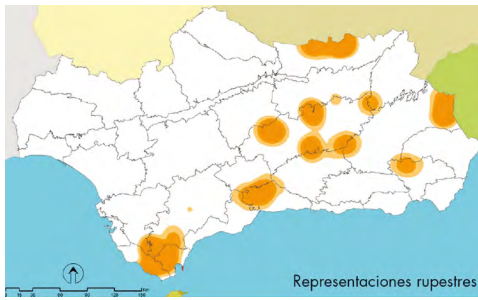
In addition to the criteria of authenticity and reliability, and depending on the research being carried out, others may be used, such as relevance and intent. For example, when studying the history of a landscape, the testimony of an individual involved in the partition of plots of land in the 18th century and an official census covering the same event may present diverging opinions when it comes to their classification, not in terms of whether they are a primary or secondary source but in terms of their intent. As such, nowadays we are more likely to avoid the classic dichotomy and use classifica-

tions more fitting to each context. These include suitability, quality and intent, to name but a few.

Depending on the context in which a landscape guide is created, historical research may require access to a particular type of source with greater or lesser frequency. For example, in the majority of cases, a solid overview of the historical interpretation of the landscape can be achieved by critically looking at secondary sources, such as publications resulting from historical research carried out into the territory in question. In such cases, it is necessary to carry out a thorough analysis of all relevant documents following the historical method for the purpose of avoiding any inaccuracies. Here, the period during which each source consulted was produced and/or its ideological stance should be taken into account.

Such historiographical sources may be either general or thematic:

- General: these include historical studies and overviews that aim to provide a general understanding of the territory. They may cover its entire chronology or part of it. They focus on regional and local history, and are often the first port of call for researchers, providing them with initial insights into historical trends and constants, which they can subsequently expand upon using other sources.
- Thematic sources: these focus on more specific aspects relating to the evolution of a landscape over time, and are extremely varied. They provide detailed information on forces that have resulted in certain features of a landscape remaining the same or changing. They offer information on the evolution of a landscape across various dimensions, including agriculture, funeral traditions, human settlement,



Maps showing the density of heritage, in *A Digital Guide to Andalusia's Cultural Heritage*. Project: *Heritage Characterisation for Andalusia's Landscape Map*

territorial communication and transport, territorial defence and security, and mountain irrigation systems, to name but a few examples.

In addition to these secondary sources, databases may also be used. These can prove very useful when studying a landscape, as they contain well-structured and standardised information. They often include an extensive collection of datasets (documents, images, movable heritage, buildings, archaeological sites, etc.), these being associated in the majority of cases with a wealth of chronological information and useful spatial references that can be used for the purpose of historical interpretation. For example, such data would allow us to analyse the location (concentration, dispersion, density, etc.) of infrastructure and human activities (settlements, mines, fortifications, etc.) and their relationship to the character of the landscape over time.

In other cases, where it is established that information on the history of a territory is non-existent or scarce, new knowledge may need to be generated through direct sources, such as statistics, censuses, images or any other primary source. When looking at the evolution of a landscape, it may be useful to use archaeological information; content produced by media outlets, including the written press, radio and television; sets of statistics and maps; legal sources; images of the territory, such as drawings or photographs; or even information from direct oral sources, such as interviews, public participation workshops, biographies and memoirs.

a) Adaptation to the scale used

In order to move from the general perspective discussed above to a more detailed one, sources must be adapted to the scale of the landscape being studied as well as its character and main identifying features. It should be noted that within this context, the term 'adapt' is used to refer to everything that is done when handling a source in order to allow us to extract the maximum amount of information from it for our landscape study.

For the purpose of adapting sources to a local scale, it may be useful to begin with a smaller scale in order to gain a broader overview of the territory. This will allow us to identify sequences of events that will help us contextualise those studied at a larger (i.e. more detailed) scale. It will also enable us to bring to light relevant aspects relating to the landscape at each scale, taking into account the main themes present at each level of historical research.

The outcome of this process should be a set of information that can be used during the fourth stage

of the research process, the purpose of which is to read and decipher the sources.

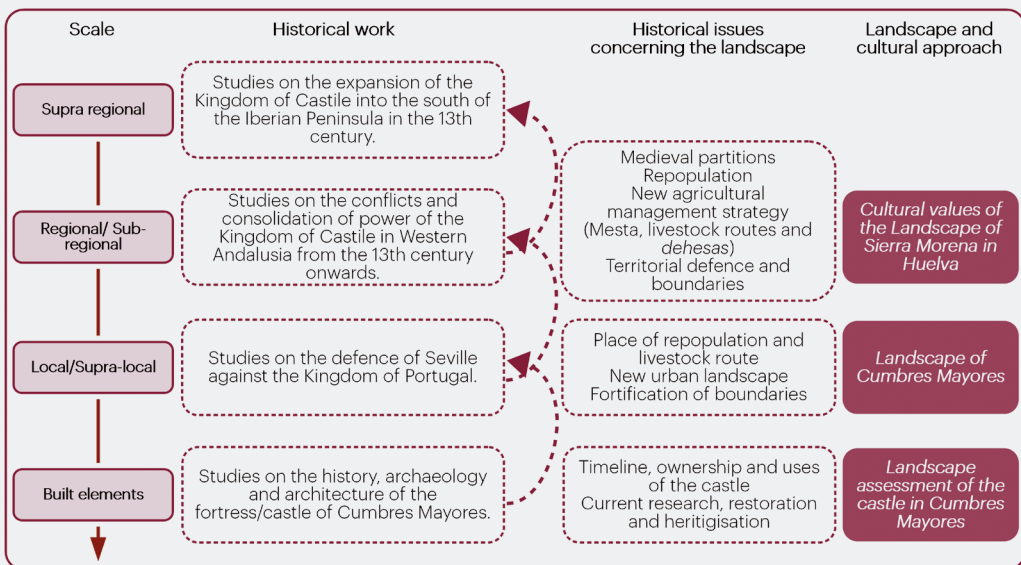
b) Analysis and critique of sources

Generally speaking, during this phase the sources are subjected to a process of interpretation. This involves firstly looking at their content and the meaning of their text or message (in the case of non-written sources), and secondly establishing or relating them to the various tangible and intangible aspects of the landscape. Here, the aim is to ensure past events and processes that have had an impact on the landscape in question are identified correctly and accurately.

This critical exercise allows us to establish with certainty that the marks of change and continuity observed in the landscape match the events described in the sources, and therefore relate them to a specific moment in time and put them in their historical context. A number of well-known examples from the field of historiography have shown

The individual or team responsible for undertaking historical research should provide a solid, well-documented overview or account of how the landscape in question has evolved over time. This should be based on the analysis of a wide range of primary and secondary sources, produced at different times and reflecting different ideologies.

An example of how historiographical sources can be used with different scales to study the evolution of landscapes in an area of Western Andalusia in the Middle Ages



that the rigorous handling of historical sources can result in disputes relating to processes within a landscape being settled on the basis of the fact that what is observed in the landscape matches what is described in the source in question. Here, we may cite the debate on whether the form of certain landscapes in Spain is due to the Roman system of centuriation used in some parts of Hispania or the partition of uniform plots of land as part of the settlement programme *Nuevas poblaciones de Andalucía y Sierra Morena* (New Populations of Andalusia and Sierra Morena) under the reign of Charles III.

The explanatory model: from events to processes

Once a solid set of sources has been established, an overview or description of the interpretation and timeline of the history of the landscape must be produced (the fifth and sixth stages of the process).

Firstly, causes-and-effect relationships must be established for the events previously confirmed using the sources. This necessary step has an important outcome: it moves the focus of the research away from isolated or largely insignificant events which cannot be linked to more well-established explanatory models for the history of the area. For example, where the context is nineteenth-century Spain, it may be interesting to establish whether the transformation of a peri-urban landscape arising from a change in the use and exploitation of the land is the result of an individual decision (inheritance, sale, etc.) or, where the change is widely seen in other nearby properties during the same period, the result of the process of confiscation of property from municipalities and the Catholic Church by the state. Whatever the case may be, unique events which are isolated in nature may

be taken into account where they have played a significant role in shaping the landscape in question (for example, a natural disaster, an event with far-reaching consequences, etc.).

Secondly, once a fairly extensive list of landscape aspects that have changed and remained the same in the local area in question has been created, we are in a position to establish the sequence or historical periodisation that will allow us to interpret the evolution of the landscape in question. This is an extremely important step. Although historical periodisation has traditionally been a key part of the study of history, within the context of a landscape guide it is important we adopt an approach that adds a strong explanatory component to this temporal sequence. This must provide a solid understanding of how and why the sequence has helped shape the current makeup of the landscape.

a) Keys to historical periodisation

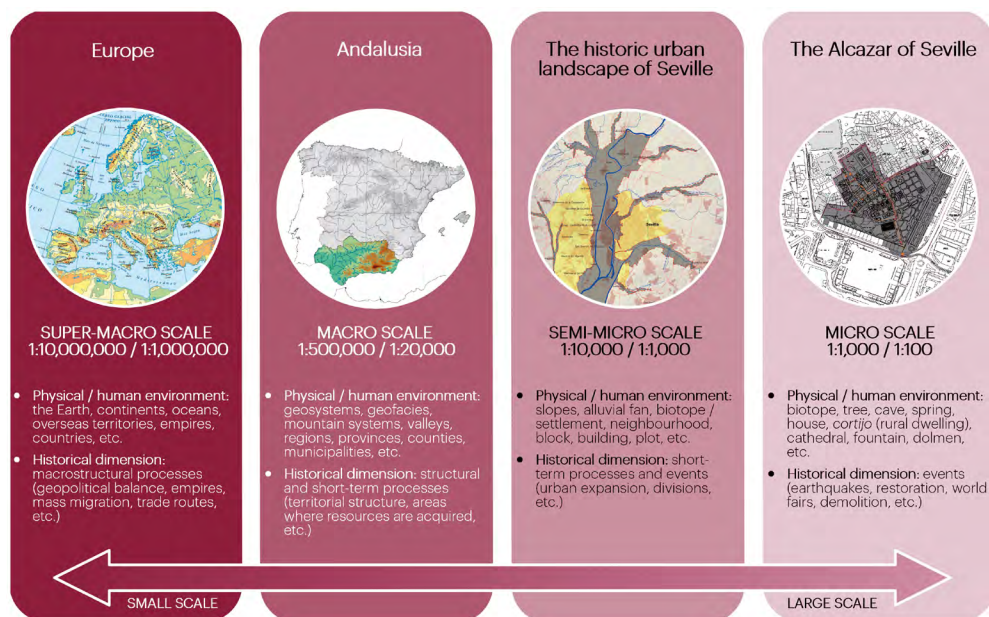
Once we have an understanding of the history of the landscape in question, we are able to establish moments during which changes took place or continuity was interrupted at a local level. Here, it is generally of little use to structure an interpretation around the classical division of history into ages, an approach that is generally regarded as bringing clear educational and standardisation-related advantages where the scale used is small.

Indeed, establishing how an age, epoch, era or period well established within the field of historiography applies at a local level is not an easy task. For example, in a landscape where mountain irrigation has remained practically unaltered since the Middle Ages, and which presents both formal

and functional continuity through to the current day, it may be stated that the forces of change/continuity acting on the territory did not bring about a new structure in this specific landscape during the Early or Late Modern periods. Here, the use of these extremely extensive standard blocks of time would result in a rather meaningless and superficial description of the historical processes relevant at the local level.

The most appropriate spatial scales for gaining effective insights into the past have been identified in a number of studies on territorial and landscape analysis. These range from the micro-spatial scale, where the focus is on events, to the macro-spatial scale, which centres on structural and short-term processes, to name the most appropriate ones for landscapes. At a micro level, the scale is limited to the built level, whereas at a macro level the scale is regional. The middle ground is occupied by a semi-micro level (amongst others), where events and short-term processes come together, these being particularly suitable for studying a local area (i.e. a city or municipality). This model is useful for helping us approach the chronological and spatial components of a territory from different angles.

What is particularly useful about this is the fact that it allows us to look at the history of a landscape through the processes that have shaped its character rather than through a purely chronological lens. This allows us to see landscapes as multi-dimensional and resilient, as unique settings where change and continuity over time reveal themselves with varying degrees of clarity. It follows on from this that the historical periodisation for a particular landscape (and the events and circumstances that have shaped it) will also be unique, largely



determined by the specific region or geographic location where it is found.

Spatial-temporal scales of analysis developed for historic World Heritage Cities

In addition to the above, in order to establish the historical periodisation for a landscape at a local level, the start and end of each block of time in its timeline must be established. Here, establishing a set of stable, meaningful and well-defined forms or types of functional organisation for the cultural landscape in question can be helpful. This exercise is theoretical in nature but is a good starting point. For example, by taking the landscape's main identifying features or predominant functional type (mountain irrigation, mining, etc.), we may reasonably conclude that these are what have cemented and shaped its character as part of considerably stable and continuous historical periods or processes, and that it would be their alteration (due to either internal and/or external factors) that would

cause the landscape to evolve and change. Based on this, we may establish points of change when a new type of landscape appears, doing this until we reach the present day.

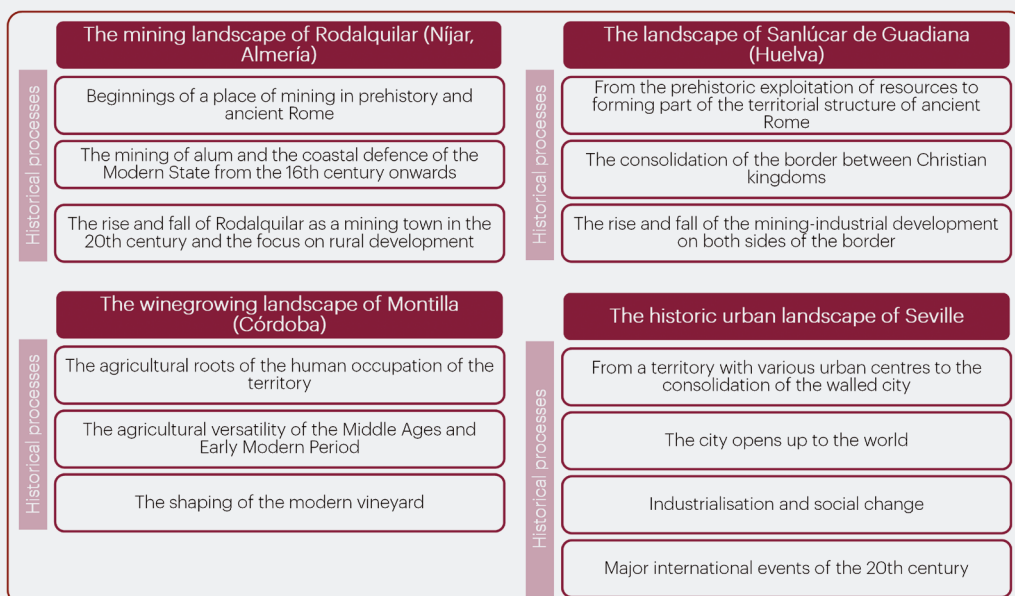
Whatever the case may be, something that any sound approach to periodisation achieves is that it helps us produce an overview of the historical territorial structure of the area being studied. Within this context, the term 'territorial structure' is used to refer to the means and strategies used by societies over time to inhabit and move around the area they call home, which have resulted in a specific makeup of nodes and networks, i.e. a pattern of settlement and a system of communications in constant dialogue with the physical conditions of the territory and the process of anthropisation.

b) Overview of the historical interpretation of the landscape

If it is held that a landscape is more than just its physical features and morphology, and reflects a particular social, economic, political and even mental or ideological world created by humans in a particular territory, then when explaining its history the focus should not be on creating a list of events, individuals or groups. Rather, when formulating the historical interpretation of a landscape, the following aspects should be taken into account/covered:

- The contextualisation of stakeholders and events that have helped shape the landscape: this involves establishing and explaining the role each one has played in its history.
- The integration of all the elements that have been identified as being factors and variables in terms

Historical processes identified in three landscapes of cultural interest in Andalusia and in Seville's historic urban landscape

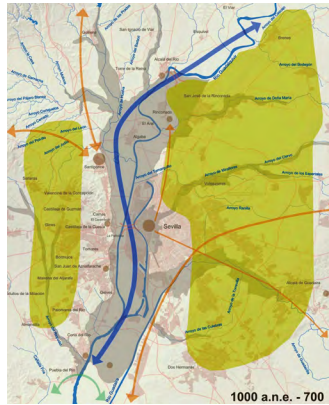
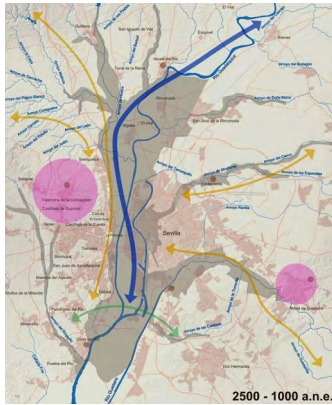


of the forces of continuity and change in the landscape: these may be understood, for example, as being the dialectical result of the interaction of said elements in the landscape.

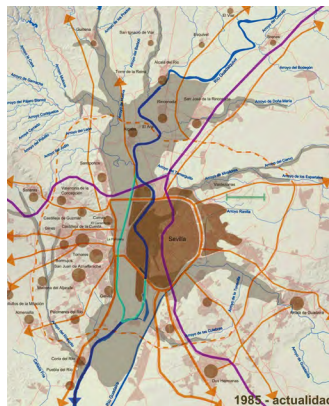
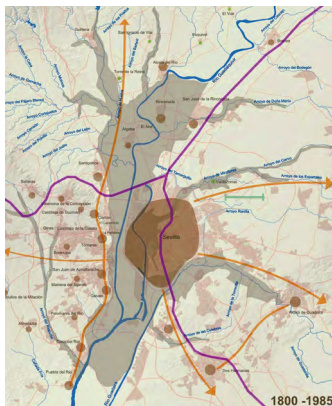
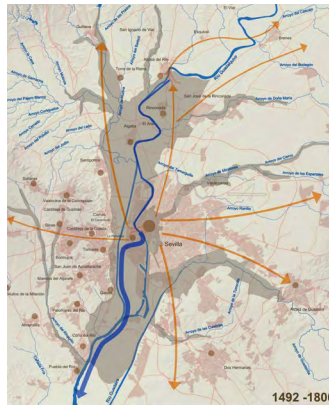
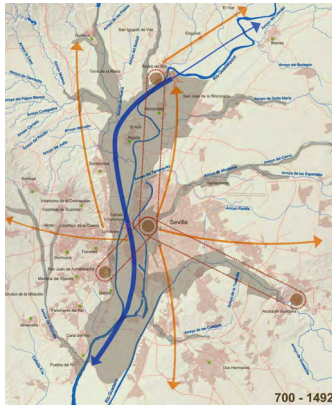
- The formulation of the historical interpretation: this is something that has played a key role in history becoming an academic discipline (a 'science') in its own right. Written language is the most common tool used for explaining history, and can take various shapes and forms, from the language of mathematics or statistics (with the help of graphs, charts and tables) to descriptive and argumentative language, to name but a few examples.
- The creation of a diachronic overview of the territorial structure of the landscape: this should incorporate and be consistent with the various levels used for its historical interpretation. It may be adapted to each particular case and scale used, making use of elements such as descriptive texts or diagrams/visual content with geographic information or chorems, or both.

As such, based on the above, within the context of landscape analysis, the periodisation of historical processes involves creating a series (sequence) of blocks of time characterised by the stability and continuity of a set of environmental, social, economic, political and ideological aspects in the landscape. Interruptions to this stability or continuity resulting from events or processes should mark the end of each block of time in the evolution of the landscape.

Lastly, when deciding on the communication strategy to be used in a landscape guide, the audience it is intended for should be taken into account. This may be the general public, academics, the public sector or a wide range of territorial stakeholders. Although in-depth knowledge may be developed



Images showing historical territorial structure, in *A Guide to Seville's Historic Urban Landscape*



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where necessary, landscape guides should provide an accessible and carefully constructed overview of a landscape's most important aspects.

Heritage resources associated with the history of a territory

Heritage resources associated with the history of a territory refer to immovable (built), movable, intangible or tangible relics that bear witness to the patterns of occupation and exploitation of the land seen during each of the processes that have marked its most significant changes. These resources provide us with information about these changes and represent a legacy we are responsible for passing down to future generations. As such, it is important a landscape guide clearly shows these relationships in order to ensure it meets its dual purpose of: 1) educating and adding to what is known about the history of the landscape; and 2) raising awareness and even providing guidance in terms of heritage management.



TERRITORIAL STUDIES

- Geomorphology and the city: looking at landscape through the physical makeup of the territory
- The relationship between urban landscape and regional/spatial and town planning
- The river and the city: an environmental perspective



HERITAGE STUDIES

- The hidden city: Seville's archaeology and historical urban landscape
- Historic production landscapes in Seville
- Planted vegetation in the makeup of Seville's historic urban landscape
- The construction of urban landscape: street furniture and facilities
- Seville's historic landscape: festive events and religious celebrations
- Seville's new architecture and its relationship to landscape



PERCEPTION AND IMPACT STUDIES

- Seville: perceptions and admiration. The construction of landscape over time
- Perceptions of Seville's historic urban landscape through the media
- Seville's new architecture and its relationship to landscape

The objects, ideas and symbols that may be associated with a landscape are potentially immense. When creating a landscape guide, it is a good idea to establish what kinds of elements it would be best to identify in order to illustrate each historical process as accurately as possible. Following this schematic and practical approach, we recommend firstly consulting resources that deal with elements in a systematic and standardised manner, such as thesauri, glossaries and established lists. Following this, depending on the particular focus of the landscape guide in question, the group of elements to be used for building an understanding of the history of the landscape should be chosen.

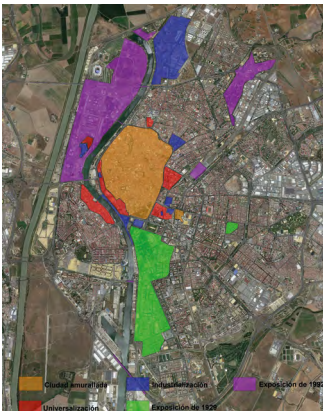
Those which best represent the processes in the historical evolution of a landscape may well be

Thematic studies carried out as part of *A Guide to Seville's Historic Urban Landscape*, accessible through the *IAPH Digital Resource Repository*

built elements of a territorial nature. This refers to infrastructure seen throughout a territory which shares common features. For example, in order to illustrate a historical process of industrialisation based on mining, or the consolidation of an agricultural area, it may be best to use elements such as roads or open-pit mining sites, or rural divisions based on land use (for example, olive groves or vineyards).

Urban spaces associated with historical processes and events in the city of Seville

Certain built elements (namely large buildings), such as castles and fortified towers, may also be considered to have a territorial scope where they are studied as part of complex networks or lines



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of defence, i.e. beyond the level of each constituent building.

In urban contexts, new roads, open spaces and urban expansion, to name just a few examples, may also represent built elements of a territorial scope. Ultimately, this approach allows us to link a series of elements to each historical process or event, which, when taken as a whole, acquire greater value than when studied individually.