

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (sea level).
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – a statutory national landscape designation.
Ancient woodland	Woods that are believed to have been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD.
Assart	The informal inclosure of private farmland by encroachment into woodland or heath.
Built Form	The characteristic nature of built development.
Character of England Map	A map developed by English Heritage, English Nature and the then Countryside Commission that divides England into Joint Character Areas.
Characteristic	A distinctive element of the landscape that contributes to landscape character for instance a particular hedgerow pattern or sense of tranquillity.
Communities of interest	Groups that have an interest in the landscape including government departments, statutory agencies, adjoining local authorities, and local interest groups such as environmental groups and landowner or farming organisations.
Communities of place	Groups or individuals who live or work in a particular area or visit it.
Condition	A judgement on the intactness and condition of the elements of the landscape.
Conserve	Strategy where the emphasis is conservation of existing character and of particular features that contribute to this character.
Coppice	A traditional form of woodland management where trees (commonly hazel) are cut regularly on a cycle to promote growth from their bases.
Create	A strategy that provides the opportunity to create or accelerate change towards a new positive landscape character.
Deerpark	Enclosed private hunting ground.

Term	Definition
Enhance	Strategy where the emphasis is on restoring elements that have been lost or declined and on enhancing character. This may include improvements to landscape management practices and the introduction of positive new elements or features.
Forces for change	These are both positive and negative factors that are known to or have potential to act on the landscape, including agricultural management issues, policy and development pressures.
Ghyll	Steep sided valley woodland (generally ancient woodland).
Guidelines	Guidelines outline the actions required to ensure that distinctive character is maintained.
Inclosure/Enclosure	The placing in private hands of land to which there was previously common rights; the merging of strip fields to form a block surrounded by hedges.
Joint Character Areas (national/regional)	Areas defined by broadly similar cultural, historical, wildlife, landscape and natural characteristics.
Landscape character	The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape and how these are perceived. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.
Landscape character areas	Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical area of a particular landscape type.
Landscape character types	Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historic land use and settlement pattern.
Restore	A strategy which focuses upon restoration or renewal of landscape features or characteristics that have been or are currently being lost or degraded, alongside active management of the remaining resource.
Sensitivity	A judgement of how sensitive or vulnerable a landscape component is to change.
Shaw	A strip of woodland forming the border of a field.

Term	Definition
Significant landscape attributes	Positive features and characteristics that are important to landscape character.
Skyline	The outline of a range of hills, ridge or group of buildings seen against the sky.
Strategy	Principles to manage and direct landscape change for a particular landscape type or character area including identification of any particular management needs for specific elements.
Strength of character	A judgement on how distinctive and recognisable the pattern is that defines the character of the landscape. This includes the combination of physical and cultural attributes and the sense of place that they evoke.
Strengthen	A strategy which focuses upon strengthening the existing characteristics of the landscape character through improvements to landscape management practices.
Townscape character	The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular urban area and how these are perceived. This reflects land use and urban morphology as well as the underlying landscape character.
Townscape character areas (borough level)	Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical area of a particular townscape type.
Townscape character types (borough level)	Distinct types of townscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the urban area or the country, but share broadly similar combinations of land use and urban morphology.
Urban/Townscape morphology	The form and structure of the urban area/townscape including for instance street pattern, scale and density of buildings, focal points and landmarks, and views and visual sequences.