

# APPENDICES

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CHARACTERISTICS**

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SPECIES**

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## APPENDIX 3: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### Balance and proportion

The relative quantities and relationship of different elements within the landscape which can affect its aesthetic qualities.

### Boundaries

Characteristic field and property boundaries found in open countryside, eg. hedges, dry-stone walls, fences, ditches etc.

### Character

A distinct pattern or combination of characteristics that occurs consistently in a particular landscape.

### Characteristic

An element or group of elements that are typical of a particular landscape

### Dipslope

The gently sloping backslope of an escarpment landform

### Diversity

The number of landscape components and the way in which they inter-relate, creating complexity or uniformity in the landscape.

### Enclosure

The density and arrangement of **structural** elements in the landscape (eg. landform, ~~trees~~, hedges, woods, walls) so that they enclose space and create visual and physical containment

### Escarpment

A **distinctive** whaleback-shaped **hill** or landform unit (typically of chalk) which comprises a steep face and gently sloping dipslope.

### Evaluation

The process of weighing up and attaching a non-monetary, subjective value to landscape by reference to specified criteria.

### Floodplain

The very flat land adjacent to a river or watercourse, generally underlain by alluvium and which would be naturally prone to flooding without specific flood alleviation measures (NB this definition is broader than that used by the Environment Agency to define the Statutory Flood Plain).

### Heritage values

Features of archaeological, cultural or ecological significance.

### Enhancement strategy

The most appropriate type of landscape improvement or management (Conservation, repair, restoration or reconstruction) based on intrinsic landscape quality and condition and enhancement needs.

### intrusive influences

Features (eg. buildings, structures, electricity pylons) and non-agricultural land uses which are out of keeping with the typical, unspoilt or distinctive character of the landscape.

### Landcover

Combinations of land use and vegetation that cover the land surface.

### Landform

Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land surface.

### Landscape assessment

An umbrella term used to encompass **all the** many different ways of looking at, describing and analysing landscape.

### Landscape character area

A geographic area with a consistent character or coherent identity.

### Landscape structure

Structural components of the landscape, eg hedgerows, trees, woods, walls etc.

#### Landscape type

A generic term for a landscape with a consistent character, resulting from different combinations of landform and landcover.

#### Landscape vernacular

The combination of elements or components which are locally distinctive to a particular area of landscape.

#### Linear settlements

Settlements where buildings are typically arranged in a linear form (eg. along a road, ridgeline or valley bottom).

#### Local distinctiveness

The special character of a place or area which gives it a particular and recognisable identity.

#### Nucleated settlements

Settlements where buildings are typically arranged in a nucleated or clustered form around a central feature (eg. around a village green, common, church, road junction etc.).

#### Riparian

A character which is specifically associated with rivers.

#### Rolling

Landform which is characterised by pronounced topography of soft hills.

#### Scale

The typical size, scale or grain of elements and patterns within the landscape, which have a close bearing on such factors as balance, proportion and enclosure.

#### Scenic quality

A subjective judgement of the aesthetic appeal of different landscape types, influenced by such factors as balance, proportion, diversity, harmony, unspoilt character, cultural preferences etc.

#### Sense of place (or 'Genius Loci')

The essential character and spirit of a landscape or area (Genius Loci means literally 'spirit of the place').

#### Sensitivity to change

A subjective overall assessment of landscape sensitivity and vulnerability to change, based on a combination of factors including landscape quality and visual sensitivity.

#### Settlement form

Typical morphology or shape of a settlement, eg. nucleated around a village green or linear along roads.

#### Settlement location

The characteristic siting of settlements in an area, usually influenced by physical factors.

#### Settlement pattern

The typical pattern of settlement, eg. scattered evenly across the countryside or concentrated within one area or along a particular line (eg. valley side).

#### Suburbanisation

A process whereby the intrusion of more urban land uses or features gradually erodes the rural character of landscape and settlements to produce a 'suburban' character.

#### Undulating

Landform which is characterised by gentle topography of shallow hills and valleys.

#### Visual sensitivity

The degree to which the landscape is open and enclosed by landform or vegetation and therefore exposed to views.

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