

Appendix A

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Table A.1: Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Term	Abbreviation and meaning
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (sea level).
Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)	The classification of agricultural land in England and Wales.
Analysis	The process of breaking the landscape down, usually in descriptive terms, into its component parts to understand how it is made up.
Ancient trees and veteran trees	<p>Individual trees or groups of trees with wood pastures, historic parkland, hedgerows, orchards, park, and other areas. They are often found outside ancient woodlands. irreplaceable habitats with some or all the following characteristics.</p> <p>Ancient trees</p> <p>An ancient tree is exceptionally valuable. Attributes can include its great age, size, condition, biodiversity value (because of significant wood decay and the habitat created from the ageing process), cultural and heritage value.</p> <p>Veteran trees</p> <p>A veteran tree may or may not be very old, but is has decay features,</p>

Term	Abbreviation and meaning
	such as branch death and hollowing. These features contribute to its biodiversity, cultural and heritage value.
Ancient woodland	Woodland which the evidence shows has had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD and has only been cleared for underwood or timber production. It is an extremely valuable ecological resource, with an exceptionally high diversity of flora and fauna.
Approach	The stepwise process by which a landscape assessment is undertaken.
Arable	Land used for growing crops.
Assessment	An umbrella term used to encompass all the different ways of looking at, describing, analysing, and evaluating landscape.
BAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species and habitats were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK BAP. The original lists of UK BAP priority habitats were created between 1995 and 1999 and were subsequently updated in 2007. See http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5155 for further information.
Biodiversity	The measure of the variety of organisms present in different ecosystems.

Term	Abbreviation and meaning
Bourne (or winterbourne)	Ephemeral stream which is often dry during the summer months.
Built form	The characteristic nature of built development.
Characteristic	An element that contributes to local distinctiveness (e.g. narrow winding lanes, vernacular building style).
Classification	A process of sorting the landscape into different types, each with a distinct, consistent, and recognisable character.
Coppicing	The traditional method of woodland management in which trees are cut down to near the ground to encourage the production of long, straight shoots, which can subsequently be harvested.
Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage includes objects, monuments, individual sites and buildings and groups of buildings and sites that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance. It includes tangible heritage and intangible cultural heritage.
Description	Verbal description of what a landscape looks like. This is usually carried out in a systematic manner, but it may also include personal reactions to the landscape.

Term	Abbreviation and meaning
Drift	The name for all material of glacial origin found anywhere on land or at sea, including sediment and large rocks.
Element	A component part of the landscape, for example hedges, roads, woods.
Enclosure	The placing in private hands of land to which there were previously common rights; the merging of commonly held strip fields to form a block surrounded by hedges.
Eutrophication	A body of water, or parts of it, contains an excess of minerals and nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus. This can cause a dense growth of plant life.
Feature	A prominent, eye-catching element, for example beech clumps on a hilltop, or a church spire.
Floodplain	The area that would naturally be affected by flooding if a river rises above its banks.
GIS	Geographic Information System.
GPS	Global Positioning System.
Grassland	Land used for grazing. Grassland can be improved (by management practices) semi-improved (modified by management practices and have a range of species less diverse than unimproved grasslands), or unimproved (not treated with fertiliser,

Term	Abbreviation and meaning
	herbicide or intensively grazed and consequently species diversity is high).
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism.
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation.
Hydrology	The science dealing with the occurrence, circulation, distribution and properties of the waters of the earth and its atmosphere.
Intact	Not changed or diminished.
Land cover	Combinations of land use and vegetation that cover the land surface.
Landmark	An object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognized from a distance, especially one that enables someone to establish their location.
Landscape	The term refers primarily to the visual appearance of the land, including its shape, form, and colours. However, the landscape is not a purely visual phenomenon; its character relies on a whole range of other dimensions, including geology, topography, soils, ecology, archaeology, landscape history, land use, architecture, and cultural associations.
Landscape character	A distinct pattern or combination of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape.

Term	Abbreviation and meaning
Landscape Character Area (LCA)	A unique geographic area with a consistent character and identity, which forms part of a landscape character type.
Landscape Character Type (LCT)	A generic term for landscape with a consistent, homogeneous character. Landscape character types may occur in different parts of the county, but wherever they occur, they will share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation, or human influences.
Landscape condition	Based on judgements about the physical state of the landscape, and about its intactness, from visual, functional, and ecological perspectives. It reflects the state of repair or intactness of individual features or elements (relating to that feature's primary condition or ultimate desire).
Landscape value	The relative value that is attached to different landscapes. In a policy context the usual basis for recognising certain highly valued landscapes is through the application of a local or national landscape designation. Yet a landscape may be valued by different communities of interest for many different reasons without any formal designation, recognising, for example, perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness; special cultural associations; the influence and presence of other conservation

Term	Abbreviation and meaning
	interests; or the existence of a consensus about importance, either nationally or locally.
Linear settlement	A settlement that is built along a road, in comparison to a nuclear or dispersed settlement.
Listed building	A building, object or structure that has been judged to be of national importance in terms of architectural or historic interest, as designated under Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
National Landscape	A statutory national landscape designation, formerly known as Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB).
Natural character	Character as a result of natural or semi-natural features such as woodland, grassland, hedgerows etc.
Natural heritage	Natural features, geological and physiographical formations and habitats that are valued for science, conservation or natural beauty.
NCN	National Cycle Network Route.
NNR	National Nature Reserve.
Nucleated settlement	A settlement that is clustered around a centre or focal point, in comparison to a linear or dispersed settlement.
Open Access Land	An area where the public have a right of access on foot as set out in the

Term	Abbreviation and meaning
	Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2005.
OS	Ordnance Survey.
Pastoral	Land used for keeping or grazing sheep or cattle.
Remnant	A part of quantity left after the greater part has been removed or destroyed.
Riparian habitat	Riverbank habitat.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation (EC Directive 92/43/EEC Habitats Directive)
Scheduled Monument	Nationally important archaeological sites or historic buildings, given protection against unauthorised change, as designated under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
Semi-natural vegetation	Any type of natural vegetation which has been influenced by human activities, either directly or indirectly.
Sense of place	A person's perception of a location's indigenous characteristics, based on the mix of uses, appearance and context that makes a place memorable.
Sensitive	The response to change or influence.
Skyline	The outline of a range of hills, ridge or group of buildings seen against the sky.

Term	Abbreviation and meaning
SPA	Special Protection Area (EC Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds).
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest.
Time depth	The time period expressed in the landscape, or the extent to which the landscape reflects a certain time period (a landscape with greater time depth will comprise older elements than a landscape with lesser time depth).
Topography	Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land surface.
Valued landscape attributes	Positive features and characteristics that are important to landscape character and that, if lost, would result in adverse change to the landscape.

Appendix B

Data sources

Table B.1: GIS Data

Mapping

Name	Source
Aerial Imagery	ESRI
Topography	ESRI
OS 25k	North Wessex Downs Team
OS 50k	North Wessex Downs Team

Administrative boundary

Name	Source
National Landscape boundary	OS boundary line

Natural heritage

Name	Source
NNR	Natural England
SSSI	Natural England
AWI	Natural England
National Forest Inventory	Forestry Commission
SAC	Natural England

Name	Source
SPA	Natural England
Priority habitats	Natural England
RSPB Reserve	RSPB
IBA	RSPB

Landscape character and designated landscapes

Name	Source
National Character Areas	Natural England
National Landscapes	Natural England
North Wessex Downs Landscape Character Assessment (2002)	North Wessex Downs Team

Historic environment

Name	Source
Listed buildings	Historic England
Scheduled Monuments	Historic England
Registered Parks and Gardens	Historic England
Heritage at Risk Register	Historic England
Conservation Areas	Historic England
World Heritage Sites	Historic England
Historic Landscape Characterisation	North Wessex Downs Team

Access and recreation

Name	Source
National Cycle Network	Sustrans
National Trails	Natural England
Open Access: Common Land	Natural England
Country Parks	Natural England

Dark skies and tranquillity

Name	Source
Light pollution	CPRE
Tranquillity	CPRE

Agriculture

Name	Source
Agricultural Land Classification	Natural England
Corine Landcover	EEA

Other sources of information**Adjacent Landscape Character Assessments**

- Basingstoke & Deane Landscape Character Assessment (2021), HDA
- South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Landscape Character Assessment (2024), LUC
- Swindon Landscape Character Areas (2004), Swindon Borough Council

- Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment (2018), Terrafirma
- West Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment (2019), LUC
- Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment (2005), LUC

Agriculture

- National Character Area data and associated databases, including the Landscape Change Evidence Hub <https://nelandscapechange.co.uk/>
- Agri-environment schemes monitoring.

Cultural heritage

- Conservation Area Appraisals.
- North Wessex Downs Historic Landscape Characterisation (2007, updated 2012).
- West Berkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (2007).
- Wiltshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (2016).
- Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (1999).

Planning

- Local Plans for the Local Authorities
- Neighbourhood areas and plans

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- 24** Grahame, K (1898) Third Edition, *Pagan Papers* J. Lane, London
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