

Glossary of terms

Alluvium Material deposited by a river

Ancient woodland Land continuously wooded since 1600AD. It is an extremely valuable ecological resource, usually with a high diversity of flora and fauna

Biodiversity The variety of life, including all habitats and species

Ecological corridor An area of vegetated land linking other areas of biodiversity interest, encouraging the spread of plant, animal and insect species.

European Landscape Convention The ELC is the first international treaty dedicated to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe. Signed by the UK government in 2006 and introduced in March 2007, the ELC provides a people-centred and forward-looking way to reconcile management of the environment with the social and economic challenges of the future, and aims to help people reconnect with place.

Field pattern The distinctive pattern created within the landscape by the size and shape of contiguous fields. The relationship between size and shape is often strongly related to the age of the pattern itself. Irregular, smaller fields are generally older than larger, more regular field patterns

Green Infrastructure A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities

Habitat The place where a particular species lives and grows. It is essentially the physical environment which surrounds and is utilized by a species population

Heathland Usually open habitats characterised by dwarf shrubs (e.g. heather) and certain tree species. Associated with unimproved areas underlain by infertile acid soils

Iron Age Archaeological period c.400BC-43AD

Land Cover Combinations of natural and man-made elements including vegetation which cover the land surface

Landscape an area perceived by people whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors

Landscape Character Area (LCA) A single unique area which is the discrete geographical area of a particular landscape type. Each has its own individual character and identity

Landscape Character Type (LCT) Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. Wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, historical land use, and settlement pattern

Landform A landform is a feature on the Earth's surface that is part of the terrain.

Listed building Listing marks and celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest, and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations.

Local wildlife site identified and selected locally, by partnerships of local authorities, nature conservation charities, statutory agencies, ecologists and local nature experts, using robust, scientifically-determined criteria and detailed ecological surveys. Their selection is based on the most important, distinctive and threatened species and habitats within a national, regional and local context. This makes them some of the most valuable wildlife areas and are protected through the planning system.

Riparian Of, or on, a riverbank

Semi-natural habitat Vegetation which has been modified by humans that is still of significant nature conservation interest

Spirit of place The unique, distinctive and cherished aspects of a place

Unimproved grassland Grassland which has not been treated with fertiliser, lime or artificial drainage to improve yields

Vernacular architecture concerned with domestic and functional rather than public or monumental buildings. It generally utilizes locally-available materials and techniques to create buildings with a distinctive local character