

APPENDIX 1

Glossary of Terms

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Note: This glossary is not a complete coverage of all words or terms used in the study. For instance it does not cover technical geological, ecological or historical landscape terms. Rather, it addresses those terms used as part of this method or in the descriptions, where meanings diverge from common parlance or are not explained in the method statement.

Amenity Planting-	planting to provide environmental benefit such as decorative or screen planting.
Analysis-	the process of dividing up the landscape into its component parts to gain a better understanding of it.
Ancient Woodland-	land continuously wooded since AD 1600. It is an extremely valuable ecological resource, usually with a high diversity of flora and fauna.
Apparent-	object visible in the landscape.
Approach-	the step-by-step process by which landscape assessment is undertaken.
Arable-	land used for growing crops other than grass or woody species.
Assessment-	term to describe all the various ways of looking at, analysing, evaluating and describing the landscape.
Biodiversity-	the variety of life including all the different habitats and species in the world.
Conservation-	the protection and careful management of natural and built resources and the environment.
Carr-	woodland in waterlogged terrain. Characteristic species include alder, willow and willow.
Character-	see Landscape Character.
Characteristics-	elements, features and qualities which make a particular contribution to distinctive character.*
Character Area (CA)-	see landscape character area
Characterisation-	the process of identifying areas of similar character, classifying and mapping them and describing their character.
Complexity-	(in the context of describing a skyline)how varied or complicated the skyline is from dead flat with even vegetation at one end of the scale to mountainous with varied vegetation at the other.
Condition-	the degree to which a landscape is soundly managed, is fit for purpose or achieves optimum biodiversity.

Coppicing-	the traditional method of woodland management in which trees are cut down near to the ground to encourage the production of long, straight shoots that can be harvested.
Consistent-	relatively unchanging element or pattern across a given area of landscape.
Cultural pattern-	expression of the historic pattern of enclosure and rural settlement.
Cultural sensitivity-	reflects the relative time depth (or continuity) of a landscape through history, and the degree to which its characteristics (such as hedgerows and settlements) are exhibited in the landscape (consistency). This is an element of intrinsic/inherent sensitivity described at landscape description unit level.
Cumulative Impacts	the changes caused by a proposed development in <i>addition</i> to other similar developments or as the <i>combined</i> effect of a set of developments, taken together. This may be an on-going process as new applications are made. The assessment of these impacts (a CLVIA) is normally carried out as part of an environmental impact assessment.
Cumulative landscape effects	cumulative effects as defined above on landscape can impact on either the physical fabric, or character of the landscape.
Cumulative visual effects	cumulative effects as defined above on people who have differing sensitivity depending on what they are doing and where they are located.
Distinctiveness	see sense of place
Ecological sensitivity-	reflects the extent of survival and intactness of semi-natural habitats or patches (areas). This is an element of intrinsic/inherent sensitivity described at landscape description unit level.
Element-	individual component parts of the landscape such as field boundaries, woodlands, patches of similar vegetation, outbuildings, structures and rock outcrops.
Feature-	prominent eye catching elements e.g. wooded hill top or chapel.
Field Boundary-	the defined edge of a field whether fence, hedge, bank, ditch or wall.
Field Size -	Large 2 Ha Above, Medium Around 1.5 Ha, Small Less Than 1 Ha.
Geology-	the study of the origin, structure, composition and history of the Earth together with the processes that have led to its present state.
Ground Type-	expression of the soil forming environment and its influence in determining the surface pattern of vegetation and land use.
Hedge-	fence of shrubs or low trees, living or dead, or of turf or stone. Though strictly a row of bushes forming a hedge, hedgerow has been taken to mean the same as a hedge.

Hedge bank-	earth bank or mound relating to a hedge.
Horticulture-	intensive form of cropping, such as vegetables or fruit.
Improved (in relation to soils or pasture)-	addition of fertiliser and, in the case of pasture, reseeding with more productive grass species.
Inherent	dictionary definition- 'existing as an inseparable part'. In the context of sensitivity means the sensitivity of the landscape zone itself with all its component elements and features rather than its relationship with adjacent zones.
Joint Character Area-	area of land (one of 159) based on broad landscape character defined by a national landscape character assessment in 1990s for the Countryside Agency corresponding with nationally derived Natural Areas defined by English Nature eg Bodmin Moor.
Landcover-	combinations of natural and man-made elements including vegetation that cover the land surface.
Land cover parcel- (LCP)	Land Cover Parcels are discrete areas of land nested within a larger LDU reflecting variations in the physical character of the land. Bounded by roads, railways, water courses and parish boundaries, these units define areas with similar patterns of land use, field pattern and tree cover.
Landscape-	primarily the visual appearance of the land including its shape, form and colours. However, landscape is not purely a visual phenomena. The landscape relies on a range of other aspects including geology, landform, soils, ecology, archaeology, landscape history, land use, settlement character and pattern and cultural associations.
Landscape Description Unit (LDU)-	distinct and relatively homogenous unit of land, each defined by four attributes- physiography and ground type, landcover and cultural pattern.
Landform-	combinations of slope and elevation which combine to give shape and form to the land.
Landscape Character-	a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements, features and qualities in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape Character Area (CA)-	area with common characteristics- in this study it is made up of a number of adjacent landscape description units with common perceptual and other characteristics.
Landscape character assessment (LCA)	LCA is the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that

make landscape distinctive. *

Landscape Resource-	The overall stock of the landscape and its component parts. (The landscape considered as a measurable finite resource like any other eg minerals, land, water).
Landscape Sensitivity-	the sensitivity of the site to the particular type of change under consideration. It is derived from susceptibility and value.
Landscape value-	the relative value that is attached to different landscapes. A landscape may be valued by different communities of interest for many different reasons. Some areas will be designated to express their value. Factors can include perceptual qualities, scenic beauty, tranquillity, wildness, sense of place/character, integrity/condition, special cultural associations, the presence of conservation interests, rarity, representativeness, community interest or use, or the existence of a consensus about importance either nationally or locally.
Mixed Farmland-	a combination of arable and pastoral farmland.
Mosaic-	mix of different landcovers at a fine grain such as woodland, pasture and heath.
Objective-	method of assessment in which personal feelings and opinions do not influence characterisation.
Outcrop-	the area where a particular rock appears at the surface.
Pastoral-	land down to grass either grazed by animals or for cutting.
Physiography-	expression of the shape and structure of the land surface as influenced both by the nature of the underlying geology and the effect of geomorphological processes.
Polygon-	discrete digitised area in a geographic information system(GIS).
Prominent-	noticeable feature or pattern in the landscape.
Protect-	to keep from harm.
Qualities-	aesthetic (objective visible patterns)or perceptual (subjective responses by the landscape assessor) attributes of the landscape such as those relating to scale or tranquillity respectively.
Regional Character Areas-	see Joint Character Areas
Receptor-	receptors (in this report) are defined as people in a variety of different situations who can experience views within an area and who may be affected by change or development. Receptors can include urban or rural residents, users of public footpaths, roads, rail or cycleways.

Resource-	see landscape resource.
Restore-	repair or renew.
Riparian-	vegetation associated with the water body, usually a river or stream.
Semi-natural vegetation-	any type of vegetation that has been influenced by human activities, either directly or indirectly. The term is usually applied to areas which are reverting to nature due to lack of management.
Sense Of Place-	the character of a place that makes it locally distinctive ie different from other places.
Sensitivity-	see landscape sensitivity.
Sensory-	that which is received through the senses ie sight, hearing, smell, touch.
Settlement-	all dwellings/habitations, whether single or clustered in cities, towns and villages.
Settlement Pattern-	the predominant pattern of settlement in an area.
Subjective-	method of assessment in which personal views and reaction are used in the characterisation process.
Susceptibility (to change)	ability of a particular site or landscape to accommodate a particular type of development without undue consequences for the landscape character or baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.
Topography-	term used to describe the features of the Earth's surface.
Value-	see landscape value.
Vernacular-	built in the local style, from local materials.
Visual Impacts-	the likely visual effects that would result from a development proposal or change in land management.
Visual sensitivity-	visual sensitivity or 'visibility' is a measure of the degree to which change is likely to cause a visual impact within a particular landscape. This is an element of intrinsic/inherent sensitivity often described at landscape description unit level.

*Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales (2011), Landscape Character Assessment Guidance (consultation draft).

Abbreviations

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CA	Character area
20c	20 th century
CWS	County Wildlife Site
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
GIS	Geographic information system
JCA	Joint character area
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape character assessment
LCP	Land cover parcel
LDU	Landscape description unit
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
Ramsar site	Wetland site of international importance
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Monument
SMR	Scheduled Monument Record
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Importance
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

APPENDIX 2
County Landscape Assessment Method
for Landscape Description Units

THE LIVING LANDSCAPES METHOD

DEFINITIVE AND DESCRIPTIVE STEPS

September 2006

The importance of the spatial framework

A key component of the character-based approach to rural decision making that has been developed as The Living Landscapes Method is the use of Geographical Information System (GIS) technology, which is now widely available. GIS allows datasets to be displayed showing the relationship between an entity (eg a polygon or line), and its attributes (eg length, height, condition). Any GIS software can be used to perform these tasks, including ArcGIS and MapInfo.

This technology greatly facilitates the storage, analysis and presentation of spatial (map based) data, allowing environmental and other information to be compared *across both space and time*, thus enabling the user to ask questions of the data and to generate hypotheses. The use of GIS also necessitates a rigorous approach to data storage and manipulation, and hence provides the opportunity for establishing a structured database of archival quality.

For GIS to be used effectively as a decision support tool it is essential to create a structured, spatial framework for describing and evaluating the countryside. This framework operates at different spatial levels, ranging from the national/regional (1:250,000), through the county/ district (1:50,000), down to the individual farm/site (1:10,000).

Figure 1: Assessment hierarchy at different levels of spatial resolution

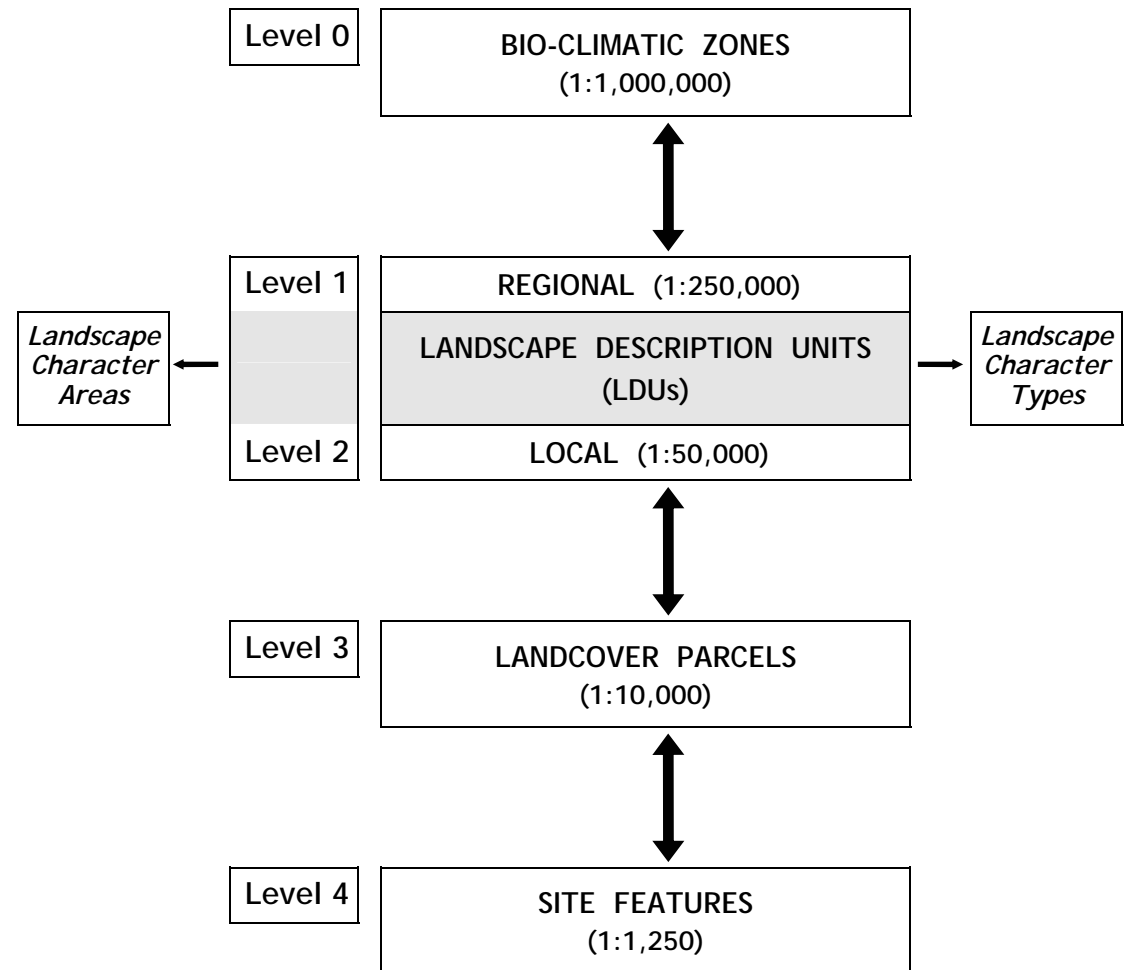


Figure 1 illustrates the relationship between the different levels of assessment. The *landscape scale*, which sits in the middle of the diagram, can be defined as a scale of assessment that is smaller than the global environment, but larger than the individual site. It is the integrating scale, providing a landscape context for farm and site based (Level 3) decision making, whilst linking with and (providing the focus for) national/regional policy objectives.

Landscape Description Units

The fundamental building block of the hierarchy at the landscape level is the **Landscape Description Unit (LDU)**. LDUs are distinct and relatively homogenous units of land, each defined by a series of *definitive* attributes, so called because they define the extent of each spatial unit.

There are **four** attributes used to define LDUs at Level 2

- *physiography* and *ground type*, which together encapsulate the underlying natural dimension of the landscape
- *landcover*, reflecting surface vegetation; and *cultural pattern*, which describes the structural component of the cultural landscape.

The natural dimension of the landscape (physiography and ground type) is mapped first, not only because it provides a context for analysing the historical evolution of the landscape, but also because the baseline attributes of relief, geology and soils have 'real' boundaries which can be readily defined. In practice this entails firstly defining the more immediately distinct areas, where the pattern of topography relates clearly to changes in geology and soil.

Cultural attributes do not usually have such clearly defined boundaries, but because of the constraints that have historically been imposed on land utilisation by slope, soil fertility and drainage it is often possible to map cultural patterns at the landscape scale using the emerging LDU framework.

It is an iterative process requiring comparison of all the data to help define the less immediately visible distinctions in the landscape. For example, a break in slope which coincides with a change in soil type and tree cover to the plateau above will be easily identifiable as a sharp boundary, where a few steps takes you into a clearly different landscape, whereas the transition between a dispersed and a nucleated settlement pattern in a rolling landscape maybe several kilometres wide and is likely to require examination of HLC and other information to help map a line to its best location.

Definitive attributes are derived through a process of overlay mapping which is described in more detail below. This process was traditionally achieved by physically overlaying a number of acetate sheets one on top of the other. Carrying out the same process on GIS not only overcomes the problems associated with enlarging/reducing source maps at different scales, but it also allows far greater scope in the actual analysis of the data. The digital datasets used in defining LDUs vary with availability from the client but typically include: geology, 10m contours, soils, farm census data, settlements, woodland, ancient woodland, HLC, moorland, OS 1:50k, and the National Typology. Other datasets may be referred to where available.

Each aspect of the analysis, and the attributes defined is outlined below.

Physiographic analysis

Physiography is an expression of the shape and structure of the land surface as influenced both by the nature of the underlying geology and the effect of subsequent geomorphological processes. Two definitive attributes are used at Level 2, one defining the geological structure (and relative relief) of the unit and the other to describe the form (and relative relief) of the land surface. This is derived from interpretation of the relationship between geological and contour data. Physiographic boundaries should ideally follow clear 'breaks in slope' that are related to geological boundaries. Where there is no obvious break in slope (eg. the transition between the dip slope of an escarpment and an adjoining vale) a 'best fit' line (ie. a line that has been adjusted to match the surface landform) should be defined that reflects the geological boundary. The physiographic character is denoted in the GIS in the Phys_D column.

Coastal dunes - low hills/ridges of sand piled up by the wind along sandy coasts

Marine levels - extensive areas of flat land formed by the recent deposition of waterborne drift, mainly of marine origin, in low-lying coastal areas - land usually at or below sea level and may include intertidal flats covered by water at high tide.

River valleys - flat, low-lying land formed by the recent deposition of waterborne drift in larger river valleys, but also including other low-lying areas formed from lacustrine (lake) drift.

Glacial vales & valleys - low-lying land, generally below 90 metres (300 feet) - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets in clay vales, coastal plains and broad valley bottoms.

Glacial lowlands - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.

Periglacial plateau - uniformly elevated tracts of gently rolling relief, usually bounded on one or more sides by steeper ground which drops to lower land - often dissected by narrow, steep sided valleys at a greater level of detail.

Periglacial uplands - elevated tracts of land with a pronounced undulating, in places steeply sloping relief, associated with dissected areas of glacial drift.

Soft rock vales & valleys - low-lying land, generally below 90 metres (300 feet) - associated with clay vales and broad valley bottoms.

Soft rock lowlands - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography.

Soft rock plateau - uniformly elevated tracts of gently rolling relief, usually bounded on one or more sides by steeper ground which drops to lower land - often dissected by narrow, steep sided valleys at a greater level of detail.

Soft rock uplands - elevated tracts of land with a pronounced undulating, in places steeply sloping relief, comprising hilltops, ridges and narrow, often steep sided valleys.

Scarp slopes & ridges - distinct, often steep sided tracts of elevated/undulating relief, generally well defined by clear breaks in slope - may be in the form of discrete hills/ridges, valley sides, or as rising ground (eg. scarp slopes) on the edge of higher land.

Ground type analysis

Ground type is an expression of the soil forming environment and its influence in determining the surface pattern of vegetation and land use. Two definitive attributes are used at Level 2, one describing the nature of the underlying bedrock/drift, the other to reflect variations in the process of soil formation related to drainage and soil fertility. This is derived from interpretation of geological (rock type), soils and land use data. The ground type is denoted in the GIS in the Phys_D column

Saltmarsh - uncultivated tracts of coastal marshland developed directly on unconsolidated mud/silt and covered by the sea at high tide - also includes slightly elevated areas with muddy channels.

Fenland - marginal land associated with organic soils derived from partially decomposed plant remains - perennially wet where undrained, but in many places (eg. The Fens) groundwater controlled by ditches and pumps.

Wet meadowland - slowly permeable mineral soils developed on alluvial drift and supporting wetland, or relic wetland (lines of willow, reeds in ditches) vegetation. Seasonal, or perennial waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production.

Dry meadowland - free-draining mineral soils developed on alluvial drift. Seasonal waterlogging may be a constraint to agricultural production but in most places groundwater is controlled by ditches and pumps.

Wet claylands - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and

western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.

Claylands - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Although at risk in wetter areas to seasonal waterlogging, this ground type is utilised extensively for cereal growing in Eastern England.

Heavy Brown soils - slowly permeable, often base poor fine loamy and clayey soils developed on plateau drift and clay-with-flints, typically overlying chalk bedrock.

Loamy Brown soils - reddish/brown, free-draining mineral soils developed on mudstone, siltstone, or drift at elevations below about 180m (600ft).

Sandy Brown soils - light, free-draining sandy and coarse loamy soils developed on soft sandstones and sandy drift. In places can include localised patches of wetland (denoted by Bw), or nutrient poor/podzolic (denoted by Bd) soils.

Sandlands - nutrient poor (podzolic) sandy or coarse loamy soils, some with a humic topsoil, supporting dwarf shrub heath, acidic grassland, or relic heathy vegetation (bracken, gorse, etc.) - associated normally with sandstone, or sandy drift.

Dunes sands - low hills/ridges of unconsolidated sands piled up by the wind along sandy coasts. Also includes gravel ridges formed by wave action.

Intertidal sands - uncultivated tracts of coastal sand covered by the sea at high tide.

Calcareous Brown soils - free draining base rich loamy soils developed on soft limestone and chalky drift at elevations below about 180m (600ft). Often includes localised patches of shallow (denoted by Br) soils.

Shallow soils - free draining loamy soils developed directly over chalk or limestone at elevations below about 300m (1000ft) - frequently distinguished by stony soils and/or rock outcrops with relic calcareous grassland on steeper slopes.

Loamy gleys - heavy land with slowly permeable base poor loamy and clayey soils. The land is mainly under permanent grassland due to seasonal waterlogging, with patches of wet heath grading into wet moorland at higher elevations in the north and west.

Dry heath/moor - uncultivated tracts of 'open' land (excluding bog) dominated by heather and other dwarf shrub vegetation

Rough pasture - other uncultivated tracts/patches of 'open' land dominated by grassland species, often in association with bracken and/or gorse - usually developed on shallow mineral soils in both hard and soft rock areas

Blanket/raised bog - uncultivated tracts of semi-natural vegetation (raised, valley and blanket bog) associated with wet humic soils which are more or less permanently waterlogged - often covered in dwarf shrub vegetation

Landcover analysis

Landcover is an expression of the type of vegetation (natural and man made) covering the land surface. Two definitive attributes are used at Level 2, one describing the predominant land use/type of farming, the other reflecting the contribution that trees and woodlands make to the character of the landscape. The broad pattern of primary land use and associated tree cover at the farm type level as related to the inherent physical (slope, drainage, fertility) and economic constraints within a particular area. The

pattern of land cover is denoted by 2-digit 'Land_D' code within the GIS database.

Ancient wooded farmlands/Ancient wooded - landscapes characterised by extensive areas of broadleaved woodlands, mainly of ancient origin (as defined on the ancient woodland inventory), which pre-date the surrounding enclosure pattern. This pattern typically displays clear signs of piecemeal woodland clearance, including irregular woodland outlines and frequent woodland place names ending in terms such as 'ley' and 'hurst'.

Secondary wooded - landscapes with a dynamic tree cover pattern, characterised by extensive patches of recent (in historical terms) secondary and/or plantation woodlands which are often superimposed unconformably on a pre-existing unwooded landscape.

Ancient farmlands - arable landscapes characterised by individual blocks, or clusters of ancient woods which are often significantly larger than the surrounding enclosure pattern.

Estate farmlands - arable landscapes characterised by an ordered pattern of discrete field sized, or larger, estate plantations/coverts which were planted at the same time, or which post date the surrounding enclosure pattern.

Settled farmlands - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or thinly scattered, or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.

Open farmlands - treeless tracts of cultivated land where natural constraints, or traditional management practices, generally preclude the establishment of tree cover.

Ancient pastoral farmlands - pastoral landscapes characterised by a mixture of scattered, often dense, hedgerow trees (typically oak) and small irregularly shaped woods, mostly of ancient origin.

Estate pastures - pastoral landscapes characterised by an ordered pattern of discrete field sized, or larger, estate plantations/coverts which were planted at the same time, or which post date the surrounding enclosure pattern.

Settled pastures - pastoral landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or thinly scattered, or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of former 'waste'.

Open pastures - treeless tracts of pastoral farmland where natural constraints, or traditional management practices, generally preclude the establishment of tree cover.

Secondary wooded wildland - uncultivated, tracts of predominantly semi-natural vegetation characterised by recent (in historical terms) tracts of naturally regenerated woodland/secondary tree cover.

Open wildland - treeless, usually uncultivated, tracts of open land where natural constraints (climate and/or soils), or traditional management practices, generally preclude the establishment of tree cover.

Wooded disturbed land - tracts of disturbed land where naturally regenerated woodland/secondary tree cover have been allowed to develop.

Open disturbed land - treeless tracts of disturbed land where the existing land use (eg mineral extraction, etc.) generally precludes the establishment of tree cover.

Arable farmlands - unwooded arable landscapes characterised by scattered trees (usually in hedgerows and/or along ditches) and small patches of scrub

Pastoral farmlands - unwooded pastoral landscapes characterised by scattered trees (usually in hedgerows and/or along ditches) and small patches of scrub

Cultural pattern analysis

Cultural pattern is an expression of the structural component of the cultural landscape as reflected in the historic pattern of enclosure and rural settlement. Two definitive attributes are derived, one describing the broad pattern of village formation and settlement dispersion, the other reflecting the structure (size/tenure) of agricultural holdings. The cultural pattern is denoted in the 'Sett_D' code within the GIS database.

Villages and estate farms - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).

Villages and large farms - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and medium sized (<95 ha), often tenanted farms.

Villages and small farms - rural landscapes characterised by discrete villages and small to medium sized (<65 ha), mainly owner occupied farms.

Clustered with estate farms - settled rural landscapes characterised by multiple settlement clusters and large (>65 ha) estate farms

(defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).

Clustered with large farms -settled rural landscapes characterised by multiple settlement clusters and medium sized (<95 ha), often tenanted farms.

Clustered with small farms - settled rural landscapes characterised by clusters of wayside dwellings and small (<65 ha), mainly owner occupied farms.

Dispersed with large estates - estate landscapes characterised by loose clusters of dwellings and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).

Dispersed with small farms - rural landscapes characterised by loose clusters of dwellings and small (<65 ha), mainly owner occupied farms.

Enclosed fenland/Enclosed waste - a sparsely settled rural landscape of large (>65 ha) estate farms, characterised by a surveyor enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields and isolated farmsteads.

Settled fenland/Settled common - an often densely settled rural landscape characterised by loose clusters of dwellings and small (<65 ha), mainly owner occupied farms within a surveyor enclosed pattern of small-medium sized rectilinear fields.

Meadow and marsh - largely unsettled agricultural landscapes often characterised by a surveyor enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields on river floodplains and coastal grazing marsh.

Meadowland - large farms - largely unsettled agricultural landscapes associated with medium sized, often tenanted farms on river floodplains.

Meadowland - small sized farms - largely unsettled agricultural landscapes associated with small, mainly owner occupied farms on river floodplains.

Meadowland - meadowland on large estates - largely unsettled agricultural landscapes often characterised by a surveyor enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields on river floodplains and coastal grazing marsh

Unsettled wildland - extensive areas of uncultivated, mainly unenclosed land (including moor, heath, coastal dunes and salt marsh) characterised by the virtual absence of human habitation.

Definitive and descriptive information

The definition of discrete LDUs provides units which are the building blocks of the landscape. The four definitive attributes (physiography, ground type, land cover and cultural pattern) tell us much about each LDU, but not the complete picture. Descriptive information, such as the visual and perceptual aspects of landscape, must also be collected and this coverage of LDUs provides the meaningful and structured spatial framework for gathering this descriptive information about the landscape. *Descriptive* attributes include both character-based information (eg species associations, building styles, etc.), as well as qualitative information relating to the significance of particular attributes, their condition and their vulnerability to change. All of this information is held on a GIS database linked to the LDU polygons.

The process of LDU mapping and subsequent characterisation with other descriptive data also enables broad patterns to be

distinguished, which in turn makes it possible to begin to understand the relationship between the many factors that contribute to landscape character. The iterative nature of this process greatly assists in the understanding of how a particular landscape has developed and is the key to assessing the character of that landscape.

Once the inherent character of the land has been described it is then much easier to understand and describe the more intangible aesthetic aspects of the landscape, such as scale, form and enclosure. Although these are the qualities which are most apparent to viewers on the ground, the fact that they are almost invariably controlled by either relief, or the surface pattern of vegetation and land use, explains why the LDUs defined by the process of overlay mapping can be used as a basis for defining Landscape Character Types and/or Character Areas.

Similarly, it is much easier to evaluate the condition of a particular landscape, or its capacity to accept change, where this is underpinned by a working knowledge of how that landscape has evolved.

Field survey

The field survey provides the opportunity to undertake a number of key tasks, including:

- incorporating the visual/aesthetic/perceptual dimension
- recording the condition of the landscape, including both the ecological and cultural aspects

- verifying LDUs and identifying any refinements to LDU and Character Areas boundaries
- assessing any particular qualities, and/or problems in areas of particular pressure or sensitivity, including seascapes.

It also provides the basis for deriving or reviewing Character Area or Type boundaries and associated descriptions.

The survey form

The survey form was developed in partnership with the Steering Group, and was designed to ensure that a structured, consistent recording of information was possible. Character and condition information is collected in distinct sections, in a mixture of guided responses (ie selection from a list of alternatives) with associated descriptive sections. This provides the consistency of responses in the guided responses which allows these responses to be mapped (eg field size), as well as greater descriptive colour.

The overall character and overall condition statements give the surveyor the opportunity to draw together the more structured responses recorded on the form: the importance of these descriptive statements in informing both LDU and Character Area level work was emphasised to all surveyors.

Some aspects of the study were considered to require additional survey, and as such the field survey included extra sections for

APPENDIX 3

Appendix Figures

