

THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER OF DERBYSHIRE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Aeolian deposits - a variety of deposits or sediments that are deposited by wind and consist of sand dust.

Alluvial - processes or materials associated with transportation or deposition by running water.

Alluvium - sediments deposited by running water of streams and rivers. It may occur on terraces well above present streams, on the present flood plains or deltas, or as a fan at the base of a slope.

Amenity trees - tree groups and small shelter belts associated with settlement

Ancient woodland - woodland which has seen a continuous woodland cover since at least 1600AD and has been cleared only for underwood or timber production. It is an extremely valuable ecological resource, with an exceptionally high diversity of flora and fauna.

Blanket bog - upland peat bog formed under conditions of high rainfall.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)- the UK government's plan for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, published in 1994.

Brown earth - soils displaying a sedentary nature, having been developed from in situ weathering of shale rock, whose sedimentary layering can be seen gradually weathering to soil within the subsoil horizon. Can be silty or loamy.

Carboniferous - Late Palaeozoic period ranging from 360Ma to 295Ma.

Carr woodland - marsh or fen woodland in waterlogged terrain. Trees commonly found are birch, willow, and alder.

Clough - a small, steep-sided valley.

Coppicing - the traditional method of woodland management in which trees are cut near the ground to encourage the production of long, straight shoots. These can be subsequently harvested.

Croft - a distinct parcel of land, occupied and farmed during the medieval period. Usually associated with a small building (toft).

Dinantian - Early Carboniferous age ranging from 360Ma to 325Ma.

Discrete - separate, distinct eg. discrete summits.

Flash - a waterbody caused by mining subsidence.

Fluvioglacial - material deposited by glacial meltwaters

Glacial till - surface material picked up & deposited by a glacier

Gleyed soils - this is a soil condition resulting from prolonged soil saturation, manifest in the presence of blueish or greenish colouration or mottling through the soil mass. These soils are not productive, and are unable to hold nutrients for any period of time.

Habitat Action Plan (HAP) - a document describing the current status of a priority habitat with suggested objectives for restoration, maintenance and management.

Hedgerow trees - trees that occur along a hedgerow, through self-regeneration, planting or management.

Humose/Humus - soil rich in organic material.

In-bye - enclosed land below the open moor, often surrounding farm buildings.

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 - human perception of the land combined with knowledge and identity of a place.

Landscape Character - a distinct pattern or combination of elements that occurs consistently in parts of the landscape.

Landscape Character Area (National) - a unique geographic area with a consistent character and identity, defined by physical, natural and cultural influences. Often broad tracts of land at a regional/national scale.

Landscape Character Type (LCT) - a generic term for landscape with a consistent, homogeneous character. They share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation and human influences.

Land use - The primary use of the land, inclusive of both rural and urban activities.

Leys - land put down to grass or clover for a limited number of years.

Loam - soil material that contains 7-27% clay, 28-50% silt and <52% sand.

Marl - soft and unconsolidated calcium carbonate, usually mixed with varying amounts of clay or other impurities.

Mesozoic - an umbrella term for the Triassic (245Ma-208Ma), Jurassic (208Ma-146Ma), and the Cretaceous (146Ma-65Ma) periods.

Methodology - The specific approach and techniques used for a given study.

Millstone Grit Series - A coarse sandstone containing many quartzite pebbles, formed in the Carboniferous Namurian period.

Mitigation - measures, including any process, activity or design to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for adverse effects of a development on landscape.

Namurian - Late Carboniferous stage ranging from 325Ma to 315Ma.

Nucleated - single focus within a parish with only occasional scattered farmsteads.

Open-field system - an area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. The fields date from the medieval period and are usually without internal boundaries.

Organic woodlands - those that tend to have irregular outlines, often associated with natural topographical features or field patterns that themselves have irregular shapes. These are woodland patterns associated with landscapes having a high percentage of ancient semi-natural woodland, often with early enclosures created by woodland assarts (i.e. fields created from woodland clearance).

Outcrop - the emergence of a stratum, vein or rock at the surface.

Palaeozoic - Geological era ranging from 540Ma to 245Ma.

Periglacial - geological features associated with continuous (permafrost) or discontinuous (seasonal freezing) periods of sub-zero features.

Permo-Triassic - Late Palaeozoic age ranging from 290Ma to 250Ma.

Plantation - Planned woodland often block shaped with a regular outline.

Poaching - breaking and compacting of waterlogged grassland by cattle trampling.

Podzolic - soils in which the soluble mineral and humus constituents have been dissolved and redeposited lower down the profile. They are poor in nutrients and generally support heather type vegetation.

Pollarding - a traditional woodland management practice in which the branches of a tree are cut back every few years to encourage long, straight shoots for harvesting. Cuts are made at a sufficient distance from the ground to prevent the new shoots being eaten by animals.

Rankers - heavily leached soils which tend to be acidic, despite their association with limestone. They are characteristically stony and shallow.

Regular woodland - those with regular shaped outlines often associated with a planned landscape such as those associated with Parliamentary enclosure or estate ownership.

Relict - feature which has survived in its early form eg. woodland, parkland.

Ridge and Furrow - a landscape feature often formed by the ploughing of former open fields. Characterised by the alternate sequence of earthen ridge and furrow typically 6-7 metres from ridge to ridge.

Riparian - riverbank habitat.

Scree - an accumulation of fragmented rock waste below a cliff or rock face, formed as a result of weathering. The rock waste typically forms a fan shaped scree slope of a concave shape. Devoid of vegetation.

Selion strip - systems of medieval land plots used for arable farming in which oxen were used for ploughing. Characterised today by reversed 's' shaped field boundaries reflecting the turning course of the oxen.

Semi-natural woodland - species rich woodland. Not necessarily ancient.

Shale - a fine grained sedimentary rock formed by the compaction of clay, silt or mud on the bottom of oceans, lakes and in deltas. Can be many different colours depending on chemical content.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - the country's very best wildlife and geological sites.

Toft - place where a house stands or once stood, often adjoining a croft.

Watercourse Trees - trees that occur along a stream or river.

Wet woodland - a rare woodland habitat that occurs on soils prone to waterlogging.

Planting and Management Guidelines: Definitions

Dense or densely scattered - regularly occurring in the landscape to form a prominent feature.

Localised or Occasional - occurs but generally an open and unwooded landscape.

Linear woodlands - those that tend to be long and narrow. Particularly associated with other linear features like rivers or steep valley sides. Wet woodland often has a linear character associated with the river corridor.

Open/unwooded or Unwooded - occurring in upland regions or along river corridors, where shallow soils, heavy waterlogged soil or management practices inhibit woodland growth.

Pattern - (i) recommended shape for new woodland (ii) also for guidance for new planting where appropriate.

Scattered or thinly scattered - noticeably variable or sparsely occurring in the landscape.

Thinly scattered - woodland not a key characteristic but apparent in the larger scale.

Treeless - occurring in upland regions where shallow soils, heavy waterlogged soil or management practices inhibit tree growth.

Typical size range - (i) existing - size of woodland within the landscape character type (ii) also for guidance for new planting where appropriate.

Widespread - extending over a wide area to create a strongly wooded character.

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www.derbyshire.gov.uk - and selecting **Landscape Character** from the A-Z listings.