

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (sea level).
Ancient woodland	Woods that are believed to have been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD.
Built Form	The characteristic nature of built development.
Broads	Water bodies which are the remnants of the medieval peat extraction industry, causing land below sea level to flood after working/management has ceased.
Characteristic	A distinctive element of the landscape that contributes to landscape character for instance a particular hedgerow pattern or sense of tranquillity.
Claustral Buildings	Within a monastery, buildings relating to the cloisters/cloister garth.
Co-axial field pattern	A parallel arrangement of field boundary hedgerows, often creating a rectilinear field boundary pattern.
Conserve	Strategy where the emphasis is conservation of existing character and of particular features that contribute to this character.
Coppice	A traditional form of woodland management where trees are cut regularly on a cycle to promote growth from their bases.
Covert	Woodlands grown/managed for sporting purposes i.e. the hunting of game birds (to 'provide cover').
Decoy	A pond to attract ducks for food within medieval and later landed estates.
Diamicton	Massive, poorly sorted drift geological deposit material.
Enclosure	The placing in private hands of land to which there was previously common rights.
Enhance	Strategy where the emphasis is on restoring elements that have been lost or declined and on enhancing character. This may include improvements to landscape management practices and the introduction of positive new elements or features.

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Fen	Fens are peatlands. Two main types of fen occur: Topogenous fens where water movement in the peat or soil is generally vertical (e.g. basin fens and floodplain fens) and Soligenous fens where water movements are lateral (e.g. mires associated with springs, rills and flushes and valley mires). They are dynamic semi-natural systems requiring appropriate management in order to maintain the open fen communities and associated species richness.
Geodiversity	The variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms and soils along with the natural processes that shape the landscape, which are the subject of the emerging Geodiversity Action Plan Process.
Guidelines	Guidelines outline the actions required to ensure that distinctive character is maintained.
Ha Ha	A sunken/ditched boundary feature, often incorporating a low wall. Often part of designed landscapes in 17 th -18 th Centuries, it stems from earlier defensive origins and the name is said to derive from the exclamation of surprise when intruders stumbled upon its presence.
Landscape character	The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape and how these are perceived. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.
Landscape character areas	Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical area of a particular landscape type.
Landscape character types	Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historic land use and settlement pattern.
Meres	Lakes formed when ice sheets retreated, carving out hollows in the underlying bedrock, and filling with meltwater from the glaciers.

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Pollards, pollarding	A traditional form of woodland management, where trees are cut back to approximately 2-4 metres above ground level on a 15-20 year rotation and the growth harvested for fuel/building. Such a practice usually results in the creation of a massive bole and significantly prolongs the life of the tree.
Pingos	Water bodies created by the contraction of frozen pockets of ground water during the thaw following the last Ice Age.
Re-create	A strategy that provides the opportunity to create or accelerate change towards a new positive landscape character.
Restore	A strategy which focuses upon restoration or renewal of landscape features or characteristics that have been or are currently being lost or degraded, alongside active management of the remaining resource.
Sandlings	Sandy heathland with pine belts forming the hinterland to the Suffolk coastal landscape. Pig farming is often characteristic where agriculture has taken over.
Sensitivity	A judgement of how sensitive or vulnerable a landscape component is to change.
Sylvicultural systems	Traditional woodland management practices e.g. pollarding/coppicing.
Skyline	The outline of a range of hills, ridge or group of buildings seen against the sky.
Slacks	Low depressions in duneland systems.
Tyes	Traditional name for a village green, in popular usage throughout much of the east of England, in particular Suffolk/Essex.
Vernacular architecture	Architecture which is indigenous to a specific place and adapted to both the environment and to the user's need. (The term 'vernacular' is derived from the Latin vernaculus, meaning 'native').